

Kidnappers release Swiss captive

DAMASCUS (R) — One of two Swiss hostages held in Lebanon was freed Wednesday and will be handed to Swiss diplomats in Syria, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nicolas Oudizot told Reuters. In Beirut, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) identified the freed hostage as Emmanuel Christen. It said he was secretly handed to Syrian officials in west Beirut and taken to Damascus. Red Cross officials had expected the release of both hostages, Christen, 33, and Elie Enriquet, 24, after a statement by the Palestinian Revolutionary Front (PRF) late Tuesday that it would release them within 24 hours. The two relief workers were kidnapped on Oct. 5, 1989 outside an orthopaedic centre in the southern part of Sidon. The sources said the PRF announcement followed Arab-mediated contacts between the ICRC, Swiss officials and the Palestinian kidnappers. "The contacts took place outside Lebanon and the Red Cross delegation in Lebanon was told to be prepared to receive the hostages on Wednesday," one source in Lebanon told Reuters.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يوم سبسيية بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

Iraq threw open Kuwait prison doors

ANKARA (R) — Iraqi soldiers threw open jail doors in Kuwait after their invasion and told over 1,300 prisoners they were free to go, a former Turkish inmate said Wednesday. "A day after Iraqi soldiers entered Kuwait they came to the prison and said we were all free to go. There were no guards. He could not believe it," Abuzezz Aslan, 37, told the semi-official Anatolian news agency. He said his fellow prisoners were mainly Turks, Iraqis, Pakistanis, Saudi Arabians and Filipinos. "We were afraid of being killed. No dinner was served that evening and the next day the 20 Turks in the prison called the Turkish consulate officials who told us the prison was emptied," Aslan said the group which left the jail freely, made their way to Baghdad where they were issued documents by Turkish consular officials and travelled home via Turkey's main border crossing of Habur. Aslan, a truck driver sentenced to 37 months in prison by a Kuwait court for smuggling, had served 27 months of his term before being freed, the agency said.

Volume 15 Number 4462

AMMAN THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1990, MUHARRAM 18, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Special edition

In view of the Gulf crisis, the Jordan Times will publish a special edition on Friday for the second consecutive week.

Kuwait emir's son calls for blockade

GENEVA (R) — A son of the emir of Kuwait called Wednesday for an international blockade of Iraq and the eventual toppling of President Saddam Hussein. "I think economic sanctions are not enough," Sheikh Salem Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Kuwaiti ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, said. "I think a blockade of Iraq is necessary, and if that is not enough, I think Saddam must go," he told Reuters.

Mandela's bodyguard sentenced to death

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A South African court Wednesday sentenced Winnie Mandela's former bodyguard to death for murdering a teenage black activist. Jerry Richardson, coach of the self-styled football club which served as bodyguards of the wife of black anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela, was found guilty last May of murdering 14-year-old black activist Stompie Seipei in January 1989. Richardson, who served as one of Winnie Mandela's bodyguards during the last years of her husband's imprisonment, was also convicted of kidnapping four youths, including Seipei, attempted murder and assault.

Shi'ite fighters clash in Bekaa Valley

BEIRUT (AP) — Rival Shi'ite militia battled with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades in eastern Lebanon Wednesday. Police said two combatants were killed and eight wounded. The clashes between the fundamentalist pro-Iranian Hizbollah and the more secular Amal were reported in the villages of Solimor and Libbaya in the eastern Bekaa Valley. Police said Syrian troops were trying to move in and disengage the combatants.

Sudan crucifies two robbers

CAIRO (R) — Sudan crucified two men Wednesday, six years after they were convicted of armed robbery. The Sudanese news agency SUNA said the supreme court and strongman Omar Hassan Al Bashir had approved their executions. Harid Suliman and Argawi Turgawi Gareeb were put to death in western Sudan after being sentenced in 1984, said SUNA.

U.N. chief appeals for restraint

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar appealed Wednesday for utmost restraint in the Gulf crisis but offered no comment on the despatch of United States troops and planes to Saudi Arabia except to hope it would ease rather than heighten tensions. This was a decision by two U.N. members that was separate from, and parallel to, action by the United Nations itself, he said.

EC chief proposes urgent G-7 talks

PARIS (R) — European Commission President Jacques Delors proposed Monday that finance ministers from the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialised countries should meet quickly to coordinate strategy following the Gulf crisis. "It's necessary for Western countries to show they are credible, that they are capable of handling the present situation," he said in a French radio interview. "That's why I think it would be good if... the finance ministers of the seven leading industrialised countries meet in a few days to coordinate their reaction in order to send the markets a message they are keeping calm," he added.

King: Cairo summit today 'last chance' to avert war

Jordan under partial mobilisation ● Israel will not find easy passage ● Jordan does not recognise new Kuwaiti regime

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein warned that an Arab summit which is expected to be held in the next 24 hours in Cairo could be the "last chance" to avert an explosion in the region over the Kuwaiti crisis.

At a crowded press conference held at the Basman Palace King Hussein repeatedly stressed that unless the Arabs get their act together and solve the Gulf crisis within an Arab context the area could be heading for disaster.

Asked if he thought that the Arab summit could be described

as "the last chance," he replied calmly: "Yes I see it as a last chance."

King Hussein, who had been seeking a mediated Arab solution from the outset of the eruption of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis, warned that the situation was deteriorating rapidly in the area.

"Events are deteriorating rapidly," he said. "Escalation of actions and reactions, predictable under such circumstances, should lead us to the verge of disaster," he said.

In reference to a possible Israeli attack against Jordan the King revealed that Jordan had been in state of "partial" mobilisation since the crisis began.

"It is obvious that we have to be alert to any possibility," he explained.

He warned against any Israeli attempt to use Jordan as a passage to attack Iraq: "Jordan will not be a passage for anyone," he vowed.

But King Hussein said that he did not believe that such a scenario was possible, although Jordan would be ready to defend itself.

Despite his pessimistic warnings, the King expressed hope that the Arab summit in Cairo will be attended by all Arab leaders and succeed in formulating

(Continued on page 4)



U.S. forces land in S. Arabia

Bush says troops will defend kingdom Naval build-up in Gulf gains momentum amid tension

Combined agency dispatches

AMERICAN TROOPS landed in Saudi Arabia Wednesday in what President George Bush described as a mission to defend the Kingdom against an attack by Iraq and an armada was building in the Arabian Gulf in a move aimed at imposing a naval blockade on Iraq and Kuwait.

In an address broadcast on television, Bush told Americans that U.S. troops and warplanes would defend Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states against what he labelled as Iraqi aggression.

As Bush spoke, the first group

of paratroopers were landing at Dhahran close to Saudi Arabia's Gulf coast and several battleships, including French and British vessels, were speeding towards the Gulf in the biggest American build-up since Vietnam war.

Bush took his action in the midst of continuing diplomatic efforts built around a U.N. trade embargo against Iraq.

Later Wednesday, Bush met with his cabinet.

In other developments, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney returned from a trip to the Middle East in which he

sealed agreement for the deployment of troops in Saudi Arabia. Secretary of State James Baker was flying to Turkey during the day, and then on to Brussels for a meeting on Friday with 15 European allied nations.

The president listed four objectives for the military mission:

— "Immediate, unconditional and complete withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwait."

— "The restoration of Kuwait's previous government to 'replace the puppet regime.'"

— "An American commitment to the security and stability of the Gulf region."

— "The protection of the lives of American citizens abroad."

An estimated 3,000 Americans were in Kuwait at the time of the invasion six days ago, and an estimated 500 in Iraq.

France said Wednesday Washington had not asked it to join the U.S.-led multi-national force in Saudi Arabia.

"The question of French participation in a future multi-national force in Saudi Arabia has not been raised," a foreign ministry spokesman said in Paris.

He declined to say what France's response would be if such a request was made.

A similar statement was also made in Bonn, West Germany.

Britain, West Europe's other main military power, said Tuesday it was not mobilising forces to go to Saudi Arabia.

(Continued on page 4)

Iraq says Israel planning attack

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Wednesday that Israel was preparing to attack it using aircraft painted with American colours and warned of massive retaliation.

A statement by the armed forces general command, issued as the first U.S. troops landed in Saudi Arabia, said it had received information Israel had painted its planes with American markings.

It said Israeli fighters were issued with false U.S. identity papers. "We issue an Iraqi warning famed for its effectiveness and power. We will retaliate against any aggression... on any targets that our arm can reach," the statement said.

The statement said Iraq had learned that Washington had established "detailed coordination with the Zionist entity" and had identified Iraqi targets which it planned to strike "believing this will divert (Iraq) from its national and pan-Arab aims."

The U.S. had failed to win the support of other countries, it said, and was disguising Israeli aircraft as its own in an attempt to divert Iraqi military retaliation.

"Iraq will not be afraid of the aggressor, and those marching in the darkness and resorting to deceit as a cover for their intentions and activities will repent," it said.

An Israeli army statement dismissed the Iraqi statement.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir contended in an interview published Wednesday that the Jewish state could be Iraq's next "target for military action."

"Israel can become Saddam Hussein's next strategic objective in the coming weeks," Shamir told the weekly Paris Match.

Mubarak expects massive military assault on Iraq

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Wednesday he expected massive military retaliation against Iraq for its take-over of Kuwait last week.

"Iraq will get a massive strike. There is an aggression coming (against Iraq). It could be horrible and destructive," Mubarak said in a televised address to the country.

He said he was giving his personal view as a former military commander but did not spell out who he thought would deliver the retaliation.

Mubarak said he had told "our brothers in Iraq" of his fears. "The situation is very dangerous," he added.

The United States has sent

about 4,000 troops and warplanes to Saudi Arabia to form the nucleus of a multinational force ostensibly to fend off a possible attack on it by Iraq.

Mubarak said no Egyptian troops had been sent to the Gulf but he would consider contributing to a multinational Arab force. He also said Cairo had not taken sides in the crisis.

"I call once again on Saddam Hussein and the Arab Nation to hold an Arab summit within 24 hours to reach a solution and discuss the issue, and not an Arab summit to exchange accusations and insults and fear at each other's throats," Mubarak said.

"We want to find a solution within the Arab framework which is better for the Arab World," he said.

(Continued on page 2)

Dollar rises, oil weaker

LONDON (Agencies) — The military build-up in the Middle East ate into confidence on financial markets Wednesday but Wall Street took heart from strong words on the situation by President George Bush, helping the London stock market to rally.

Oil prices fell in volatile European business. "At the moment you call four different brokers and get four different numbers (prices)," said one trader in London in late afternoon.

The dollar, meanwhile, regained some of its lustre as a safe haven for investors in times of world tension.

But the overall picture was far from clear as U.S. forces landed in Saudi Arabia.

Iraq unsettled markets with its announcement that it had merged with Kuwait.

Analysts said word that Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and other major oil-producing countries would increase their output also worked

to suppress crude prices.

The dollar closed in London at 1.5955 German marks and 150 Japanese yen after touching a traded high in Europe of 1.6025 and 150.75. It had finished Tuesday at 1.5788 marks, a shade above its all-time fixing low in Frankfurt earlier that day, and at 149.90 yen.

"Bush made his stance clear. Operators saw that as boosting the chances of the conflict escalating," said one currency trader in Frankfurt of the U.S. leader's statement.

For the time being, currency dealers appeared to be pushing to one side concern that the U.S. economy is on the brink of recession with stagnant growth and rising inflation.

Oil had a troubled day in a complex markets where most trading is done by dealers talking on the telephone.

British Brent blend from the North Sea, the most widely

traded crude internationally, was quoted in futures dealing at \$25.60 per barrel for September delivery in late European business after closing in London on Tuesday at \$27.40.

European share markets had a see-saw day. A surge in Tokyo overnight gave some support to early business but the major markets in London, Frankfurt and Paris faded towards midday.

Frankfurt and Paris never recovered, the former because it closed on schedule around 1230 GMT, before Wall Street gathered steam, and the latter because of the Gulf crisis compounded by local gloom about the prospects of state controls on petrol prices and press speculation about new federal taxes.

Gold closed a shade lower in London at \$382.25 an ounce, down 20 cents on Tuesday's finish in what dealers described as nervous, volatile trading.

Baghdad announces Iraq-Kuwait merger

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ SAID Wednesday it has merged with Kuwait at the request of the government it installed after taking over the emirate last week.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) carried a statement from the ruling Revolutionary Command Council headed by President Saddam Hussein announcing the merger.

"All the evil and all the conspirators, all the fleets and squadrons of aircraft, all the centres of brute force inside or outside the Arab Homeland will not shake a single palm frond in Basra... Kuwait or Ahmadi," the statement added.

Mina Al Ahmadi is Kuwait's main oil-loading terminal. Basra is a key port on the Shatt Al Arab in southern Iraq.

Iraqi television later showed a meeting of the Iraqi leadership in which Hussein said:

"Thank God we are now one people, one state that will be the pride of the Arabs..."

"The new Iraq is from Zakho (on the northern border with Turkey) to Ahmadi," he said.

"Television also showed scenes at the Iraqi National Assembly where Hussein was wildly cheered by deputies chanting 'with our souls, with our blood, we sacrifice ourselves to you O Saddam.'"

The assembly later unanimously endorsed the merger.

There was about half an hour of wild shooting in the air to celebrate the merger announcement but the shooting stopped on order of the authorities.

The announcement came less than two hours after U.S. President George Bush told the American people that U.S. troops were taking up "defensive positions" in Saudi Arabia to ostensibly to guard against a possible attack by Iraq.

Bush demanded an immediate Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Earlier Baghdad Radio broadcast a statement from the Iraqi-installed Kuwait government appealing for an immediate merger.

"The free provisional Kuwaiti government has decided to appeal to our kinfolk in Iraq... led by the knight of Arabs and leader of their march, President Field Marshal Saddam Hussein, to agree that their sons should return to their large family, that Kuwait should return to the great Iraq, the mother homeland," Baghdad Radio, monitored in Cyprus, said.

It said the Kuwaiti provisional government yearned "to achieve complete merger unity between Kuwait and Iraq, and for the hero Saddam Hussein to be our leader and protector of our march as the president of the republic of Iraq, as he is chairman of (Iraq's) Revolutionary Command Council."

"Brothers in proud Iraq, this is our appeal and our decision."

Iraq claims that it intervened in Kuwait to support a takeover by "young revolutionaries" who formed a provisional government.

"Kuwait is a part of our country," the Iraqi government declared in a televised statement carried by the Cable News Networks (CNN). The statement was simultaneously translated into English by CNN.

The Iraqi spokesman called for "full unity between Kuwait and Iraq," according to the English translator's voice broadcast on CNN.

Iraqi troops seized the small oil-rich emirate in a lightning strike Thursday.

"Our fellow citizens, history has proved that Kuwait is a part of Iraq,"

Ali named deputy premier

NICOSIA (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Wednesday appointed Colonel Alan Hussein Ali, prime minister in Hussein Ali, as a deputy prime minister of Iraq, the Iraqi News Agency INA reported.

Iraq now has four deputy prime ministers under Hussein, who is prime minister as well as president.

Hussein appointed the other eight members of the now-defunct "provisional" government of Kuwait, all middle-ranking military officers, as "advisors at the presidency with the rank of ministers," according to INA.

said the Iraqi spokesman in Baghdad. The statement vowed to defy the rapidly-growing Western military build-up in the Gulf.

"All the fleets, planes... in the world, whether inside or outside the Arab Homeland, will not shake the palm fronds of Basra, Al Qadisiya..." it said.

"... We will fight your criminal force... the blood of our martyrs will burn you," it said.

Television told Iraqis to rejoice over the merger. In Baghdad groups danced and threw water at each other as evening shadows cooled the sun-baked streets.

"The Revolutionary Command Council has decided to return the part and branch, Kuwait, to the whole and

(Continued on page 2)



Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Kabariti (in suit) at the Al Ruweished border post (Photo by Youssef 'Allan')

Only non-residents allowed to leave Kuwait and Iraq

By Ghadeer Taher in Amman and Caroline Farraj in Al Ruweished

AMMAN — Westerners, Arabs and Jordanians streamed into Jordan by cars, buses and trucks Wednesday after Iraq opened its borders with the Kingdom, but European diplomats said foreigners, including Arab nationals, holding residence permits for Kuwait or Iraq were not allowed to cross by the Iraqi authorities.

Over 400 Europeans and non-Arabs had crossed the border by Wednesday evening after Iraq opened the border point at Al Ruweished, 360 kilometres northeast of Amman, official sources said. But none of them was resident of Iraq or Kuwait, according to Western diplomatic missions in Amman.

"Our embassy in Baghdad said foreigners with residence permits for Kuwait or Iraq were not allowed to leave," said a Western diplomat. "We,

however, feel that this (Iraqi) position is negotiable," he added. At least two other European diplomats confirmed that their embassies in the Iraqi capital had relayed similar messages to them.

No precise estimate was available on the total number of foreign visitors stranded in Kuwait and Iraq when Iraqi troops crossed the border and took control of their southern neighbour in the early hours of Thursday and closed Kuwaiti as well as Iraqi airports and closed the borders.

The West German embassy put the number of West Germans in Iraq and Kuwait at 500, each, and several other missions said they did not have any clear idea since many could have fled Kuwait across the border to Saudi Arabia away from the checkpoints set up by the Iraqis.

An Italian embassy official said a convoy of 10 cars heading for Amman from Baghdad was turned back at the border by the Iraqi authorities but

said he did not know why. This account contradicted with remarks made by an Amman-based British businessman, Brian Hume, that there was no "harassment or problem" during his overland trip from Baghdad late Tuesday in a taxi.

Hume, 53, from Southampton, said he did not find any restrictions on foreigners leaving Iraq when he crossed over in the early hours of Wednesday. "Everything was perfectly normal and the border-crossing was very smooth," said the businessman, believed to have been the first European to cross after Iraq opened the border Monday night.

Nor did he have to face any problems during his stay in Baghdad, Hume said. "Life was pretty normal except for an increased military presence in the streets," he said.

A West German businessman who arrived late Wednesday agreed. "Do not get the idea that

(Continued on page 2)

Israelis escalate anti-Arab riots

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Jewish mobs stoned Palestinian-owned cars Wednesday in a third day of anti-Arab violence in occupied Jerusalem, and the Israeli mayor, Teddy Kollek, said the unprecedented riots had helped sharpen the divisions in the city.

The attacks erupted after two Jewish youths were slain by unknown assailants.

Hawkish Housing Minister Ariel Sharon said Israel must respond to the killings by expelling 150 leaders of the Palestinian uprising. "The government must make the crushing of the uprising its main objective," Sharon said on Israel army radio.

In fresh violence Wednesday, Jewish mobs stoned Arab-owned cars and taxis on the main highway between Jerusalem and the West Bank town of Bethlehem. Several windshields were smashed, but there were no reports of injuries.

Many West Bank Palestinians stayed away from Jerusalem Wednesday for fear of stoning attacks. Others covered the blue license plates of their cars with cardboard or took taxis.

Bethlehem taxi drivers demanded danger pay for the trip to Jerusalem, charging five shekels (\$2.50) instead of 1.50 shekels (75 cents) and taking backroads instead of the highway.

The latest developments underscored the invisible barriers that have separated Arab and Jewish neighborhoods in Jerusalem since the beginning of the uprising in December 1987.

Israeli leaders claim that the city is united, but Kollek acknowledged Wednesday that the riots were "the most effective effort to divide the city."

Ariel Weinstein, a legislator from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc, demanded that authorities close off certain areas of Jerusalem to Arabs at night to protect Jews. About 354,000 Jews and 140,000 Arabs live in Jerusalem.

Responded legislator Micha Goldmann from the Labour Party: "Mr. Weinstein's proposal shows a change in Likud policy, recognised that Jerusalem has come a divided city again."

Kollek described Tuesday's riots following the funeral of the two Jewish teenagers as "the hardest day Jerusalem ever had."

Thousands of Israelis, many chanting "death to the Arabs," thronged the funeral. As the procession snaked through the city, small mobs broke out to stone Arab cars and beat Arab pedestrians.

Dozens of Arabs have been injured and scores of car windows smashed in two days of rioting. Azlat Halachia, 42, from the Arab neighbourhood of Silwan, was in critical condition Wednesday after his car overturned in a stoning attack Tuesday.

Kollek criticised police for their often laid-back attitude toward Jewish rioters. "Why the police didn't prevent these attacks, I don't know," Kollek said on Israel Radio. "This is a matter for investigation."

Reporters covering the riots said that in many cases, police stood by as Jewish protesters hurled stones at Arab-owned cars, or pulled passengers out of the vehicles and beat them. Some 30 Jews were detained in the riots.

Police usually fire tear-gas and in some cases rubber bullets to disperse stone-throwing Arabs in Jerusalem, but neither were used Tuesday against the Jewish rioters. Reporters listening to police radio heard commanders in the field repeatedly requesting permission to use tear-gas, but they were turned down.

House demolitions

In other developments, soldiers destroyed the third floor of a Palestinian house in Gaza City and a house in the West Bank village of Kufur Rai near Jenin, the army said.

The Gaza City home belonged to Mahmoud Al Bakniji, 25, who is suspected of lightly injuring a soldier when he threw a grenade at an army patrol. The Kufur Rai house, described by the army as a small shack, was home to Ahmad Saher Sabah, 24, who is suspected of stabbing to death the relative of an alleged village informer.

The demolitions came after the army sealed seven houses this week, four in the West Bank city of Nablus Monday and three in the West Bank village of Deir Balud on Tuesday.

U.S. builds massive armada in Gulf

By Charles Aldinger
Reuter

WASHINGTON — U.S. defence officials say the United States is massing its largest concentration of military force since the Vietnam war around Iraq in a signal that President George Bush is prepared to battle Baghdad to protect Saudi Arabia.

The officials said Bush later Tuesday ordered the Pentagon to begin moving fighter jets and up to 4,000 troops from the United States to Saudi Arabia to face any attack by Iraqi troops massed in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, a third U.S. aircraft carrier and a battleship left the United States Tuesday for the region to back demands by Washington and other countries that President Saddam Hussein

withdraw his troops from Kuwait following Iraq's August 2 invasion.

The U.S. defence officials, who asked not to be identified, said the American airborne and elite special force troops could become part of a multi-national force in Saudi Arabia, possibly including Egyptian troops.

At least 10 Soviet, British and French warships were also in the Gulf, possibly to help back United Nations economic and military sanctions voted against Iraq.

The defence department and White House refused to confirm or deny the U.S. troop and aircraft movements. But defence sources said Saudi leaders gave permission for the move in talks with visiting Defence Secretary Dick Cheney Monday.

When the aircraft carrier Saratoga and the battleship Wisconsin along with eight escort warships reach the Mediterranean in about 10 days, the United States will have more than 30 warships — including three aircraft carriers — in the region.

The force, including more than 200 navy fighters and bombers on the carriers Saratoga, Eisenhower and Independence, will be more powerful than any U.S. military gathering since the Vietnam war, according to defence officials.

"The (U.S.) troops wouldn't be much match for a huge Iraqi force. But they can help provide security for the real power — jets," said one defence official, who asked not to be identified. He and other officials declined

to confirm televised reports that U.S. B-52 bombers and possibly F-117 radar-evading "Stealth" fighters might be moved to Saudi Arabia with F-15 and F-16 jet fighters from the southeastern United States.

Some of the F-15s and F-16s began the 16-hour direct flight to Saudi Arabia Tuesday. But defence officials said they did not know when transportation of the American troops in big C-5A aircraft would be completed.

"There are currently about 2,000 marines also for the Mediterranean on ships," said one of the U.S. defence officials. "While the total number of troops will not approach the more than 12,000 used in the Panama invasion (last December), it will be far stronger, when the sea and air power are thrown in."

Officials said that Saudi officials gave reluctant permission for the American military presence in talks with Cheney.

They said Cheney, who was flying home for talks with Bush Wednesday, also obtained permission in Egypt Tuesday to move the carrier nuclear-powered, carrier Eisenhower through the Suez Canal from the Mediterranean into the Red Sea.

The ship was expected to then join the aircraft carrier Independence in the northern Arabian Sea.

U.S. defence officials said they understood the U.S. troops might be joined in Saudi Arabia by troops from Egypt and perhaps other countries. But an Egyptian defence ministry official in Cairo late Tuesday said no Egyptian forces would be sent.

Gulf crisis gives Bush a domestic respite

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Iraq standoff is giving President George Bush a respite from partisan attacks on domestic issues but threatens the economy and his political standing, political strategists say.

Opposition democrats, who have silenced their attacks to support Bush for now, contend the latest Middle East crisis and its economic repercussions will eventually hurt the president at home.

Analysts agree that Bush is at a crucial point in his tenure, facing a number of major challenges with the potential for dramatic and possibly devastating effects on an economy already teetering on recession.

"No doubt, he's got his hands full more than he has at any other time in his presidency," said Charles Black, a Republican consultant.

Republican strategists acknowledged that the Iraqi crisis is unusual because of its direct impact on oil prices and therefore on the U.S. economy — the primary factor in a president's peacetime political fortunes.

Democratic strategists believe the economy, and Bush, are bound to suffer from higher oil prices, regardless of whether Iraq withdraws from Kuwait.

"If he walks away, he isn't showing any backbone. And if he takes on Iraq, by definition he impacts on the price of energy, badly, which means a burden on the economy that almost surely will bring recession," said Democratic consultant Bob Beckel.

"A president's standing with

the people depends on their pocketbooks and how they feel about the economy," Beckel added.

Even before the Iraqi invasion last Thursday, which immediately produced higher gas prices, there were growing signs of consumer unease with the economy.

That unease has been mirrored in financial markets, which are wary over data showing a virtually idle economy, stalled deficit-reduction negotiations, uncertainty over inflation and the rising cost of the savings and loan bailout.

But Bush pollster Bob Teeter argued that Americans will not blame Bush for economic hardships resulting from his hard line against Iraq.

"The public will understand that higher oil prices are not George Bush's fault," said Teeter. "There's as much opportunity here as there is risk."

Democratic hopes for partisan gain seem pinned on a recession and the belief that Bush's foreign policy credentials won't matter much to voters if the economy takes a dive.

"For now, Democrats and for that matter, I think everyone will be supportive of the president," said Democratic pollster Harrison Hickman.

But Hickman said polls show "people preoccupied with domestic problems and starting to stick" some of the blame on Bush. The Iraqi crisis, said Hickman, "won't negate that, but it buys him some time because it diverts attention."

The next presidential elections will be held in 1992.

Mubarak expects attack

(Continued from page 1)

Makram Mohammad Ahmad, editor-in-chief of Al-Mussawwar, said Cairo had urged Iraq to withdraw its troops to the border island of Bubiyan and accept talks with the legitimate government of Kuwait.

Mubarak had tried to persuade Iraq to compromise in order to keep Western forces out of the crisis.

"But Iraq's response was... persistent refusal of any sound breakthrough aimed at avoiding foreign intervention..." wrote Ahmad, a close confidant of Mubarak.

Mubarak said he had not received any personal news that any foreign powers would strike against Iraq, but that he feared such an attack was coming.

"I have told our brothers in Iraq, I am afraid that Iraq will be struck by a harsh strike from the outside. Don't think that the fleets are just going to sit there sleeping," Mubarak said.

"This is just my personal point of view. I have not received any information that there is an attack coming. I just feel it is coming and it could be destructive and frightening," Mubarak said.

"It is better for us that this remain within the Arab framework. The situation is very serious," he said. "The picture I see is black. I call on President Saddam to respond to an Arab umbrella and to withdraw his forces."

Mubarak reiterated that he was willing to send Egyptian forces to any Arab force that could be formed. He said he did not intend to send troops to the multinational force that the United States is forming in Saudi Arabia.

"We have no troops there (in Saudi Arabia). We are not preparing troops and there is no talk about this," Mubarak said, apparently responding to reports from Washington that Egypt had agreed to send forces to Saudi Arabia.

"But if we are asked to participate with Arab troops, I do not think Egypt would refuse," he said.

In his speech, Mubarak was very critical of Hussein.

"You said you would not strike (at Kuwait) and you struck. And now you are turning to Saudi Arabia and saying I will not strike. It will not believe you... then you should find justification for whoever asks for a foreign protective umbrella," Mubarak said.

Iraq announces merger

(Continued from page 1)

the Iraq of its origins," it said. The statement said the merger was not a precedent and Baghdad had no ambitions on the land or wealth of other states.

Earlier, the Iraqi official media expressed defiance at the prospect of American intervention.

The daily Al-Qadisiya said that the Iraqi armed forces and the people of Iraq and Kuwait were ready to deter anyone who commits an act of aggression against Iraq.

Oil executives at the Saudi Arabian oil facilities at Khafji, just south of the Kuwait-Saudi Arabian border, said the area was quiet Wednesday and two tankers were preparing to load Saudi crude oil at the Gulf terminal there.

Iraqi troops have dug into position near the Kuwait-Saudi border and Saudi Arabia has moved troops and armour into defensive positions on their side.

The Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency quoted the deposed ruler of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, as saying he was ready to sit and talk with Iraq to solve the crisis on the condition that Iraqi troops withdraw from Kuwait.

Sheikh Jaber was quoted as telling the American ABC television network that he hoped "from the bottom of his heart" that Iraq would pull out so that the crisis could be solved at friendly meetings.

The Kuwaiti leader was interviewed at Alexandria, Egypt, after a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the agency said. It did not say when the interview took place.

Late Tuesday foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) issued a statement condemning Iraqi "aggression" and calling for immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Oman's Minister of Foreign Affairs Yusuf Ben Alawi read the statement which said the Iraq action was a "blatant violation of the sovereignty of a state by all Arab, Islamic and international norms."

The GCC consists of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

The statement affirmed backing for the government of Sheikh Jaber and rejected the legitimacy of the "provisional government of free Kuwait" installed by Iraq and consisting of nine military officials.

Non-residents allowed to leave

(Continued from page 1)

we were suffering in Baghdad," he told the Jordan Times. "We were staying in good hotels and having food, and everyone was friendly," he said. The businessman was one of four who crossed Wednesday noon.

Several of the arrivals interviewed by the Jordan Times agreed that there was psychological pressure while they waited for permission to leave the Iraqi capital.

"Only the politicians' statements made us nervous and tense," said the West German businessman.

An American told the Jordan Times at the border post: "We were treated well, but were frightened by media reports that we would be used as hostages."

There have been a series of reports from various world capitals that Iraqi troops had "rounded up" foreigners, mostly Europeans, and took them to undisclosed destinations in Baghdad, raising speculation that Iraq might use them as a bargaining chip and insurance against any Western military attack.

Several embassies in Amman said they had arranged buses to await arrivals at the Al-Rawdah border post, and some of them said late Wednesday some of the vehicles had returned with passengers.

According to a list available to the Jordan Times, 26 Germans, 24 Britons, nine Americans, six Dutch, five Indians, four Austrians, four Yugoslavs, four Thais, four Japanese, three Pakistanis, two Filipinos, two Turks, and one Irish man had crossed by 8 p.m. Wednesday. A small number of them were said to be embassy employees but none of them an

accredited diplomat in Iraq or Kuwait. Scores of Jordanians and other Arabs, including Iraqis, had also crossed.

Sources at the border post said "later another group... an assortment of European, Japanese and American nationals... had crossed but no details were available."

The first group of foreigners to leave Baghdad after last week's invasion came with an Iraqi Airways special flight Tuesday night. The passengers included 73 Japanese tourists, five other foreigners and 34 Iraqi nationals. Laments after last week's invasion were said to be available on the number of nationalities of passengers if carried.

Security sources said that several Egyptian and Syrian and Lebanese nationals crossed into Jordan from Iraq since the border was opened Monday. A security source said that many Jordanian families were stranded at the border Wednesday. He could not confirm if they had resident permits or whether they were travelling to the Kingdom from Iraq or Kuwait.

Jordanian officials have said anyone would be granted an entry visa with or without travel documents. Those who do not have travel documents would need their embassies in Amman to vouch for them.

An exodus was reported meanwhile through the Saudi-Arabian border in the southeast. Some reports put the total number of people crossing through this area at 100,000 but there was no independent confirmation.

The bulk of the arrivals through the Saudi-Jordanian border was believed to be Kuwaitis and Egyptians who fled Kuwait to Saudi Arabia.

Embargo strangles Iraq's oil exports

DUBAI (Agencies) — Iraq's oil exports came to a halt on Wednesday as a world embargo took a stranglehold after Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait.

Oil industry sources said no Iraqi oil was leaving Turkey or Saudi Arabia, which carry nearly 90 per cent of Baghdad's exports by pipeline. No oil was leaving Iraq by sea either.

It was unclear whether other Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members would boost output to make up the shortfall caused by the ban, ordered by the U.N. Security Council, and a shutdown of Kuwaiti production.

Oil is Iraq's main source of foreign exchange and a prolonged embargo would destroy its economy. It used to export 2.7 million barrels per day (bpd), five per cent of world output.

Ankara, in line with the U.N. Security Council trade ban on Iraq, Tuesday closed oil jetties on its Mediterranean coast serving Iraq's twin pipelines through Turkey.

Industry experts said Iraq closed one of the pipelines on Monday and must now have been forced to close the other.

They added that tanks storing Iraqi oil at Saudi Arabia's Red Sea port of Mu'ajjiz appeared to be full, which would mean Iraq would have to close the pipeline feeding those as well.

Saudi Arabia has not said it would close the pipeline but it is impossible to move oil through if

the tanks are full and no tanker is loading.

No ship is due to load at Mu'ajjiz until Friday. That vessel will not arrive if India, the buyer of the oil, joins the worldwide trade embargo.

Iraq has exported no oil from its sea terminal at Mina Al Bakr since around the time of its invasion of Kuwait on Thursday, one industry source said.

He said most exports from there used to go to South Korea. The terminal had been handling around 300,000 (bpd), though its capacity was 800,000 bpd.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter and with the biggest spare capacity, has not said whether it will raise output to make up for the loss of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has urged OPEC states not to raise output and Iran Wednesday said the same, contradicting earlier reports that it wanted an increase.

With the loss Kuwaiti exports of 1.6 million bpd of crude and oil products, the total shortfall is about four million bpd.

Saudi Arabia could boost exports by almost two million bpd in the short-run and the UAE could push exports up by around 600,000 bpd.

Other OPEC members such as Venezuela, Nigeria and Libya would also have to increase output to meet the shortage fully. In Bogota, a senior U.S. official quoted Venezuelan President

Carlos Andres Perez as saying OPEC members would try to keep oil prices down and were ready to increase production.

Oil prices doubled after the invasion to nearly \$30 a barrel but fell Tuesday to about \$25 on hopes of higher OPEC output.

Some oil traders said that refined oil products had left Iraq's Zubair port since the invasion. These might have gone to a private buyer in Jabal Ali port in Dubai to which Iraq used to sell its products, the traders said.

They added that the estimated 100,000 tonnes of Iraqi naphtha, gas oil and oil fuel stored at the Star Energy tank farm in Jabal Ali could be hard to sell because buyers were observing the U.N. embargo.

Iraqi crude seized

U.S. customs service officials Tuesday seized 417,344 barrels of Iraqi crude oil that was aboard a Swedish-flagged tanker at Port Arthur, Texas, a spokeswoman said.

She said the crude was seized from a lightening tanker called the Thoras, which was being detained at the port. The mother ship in international waters has not yet been identified.

The destination of the crude was not immediately known. The customs spokeswoman said the Iraqi crude was paid for Monday, thereby keeping it under embargo guidelines set last week by President George Bush.

U.S. senator says Israel may have to send troops

TEL AVIV (AP) — The United States may ask Israel to commit troops to a U.S.-led multinational force to be deployed in Saudi Arabia, a member of the U.S. Senate's Armed Services Committee said Wednesday.

"We may at some point call on our friends in Israel to help us," John McCain, a Republican from Arizona, said in an interview with Israel's armed forces radio.

McCain said a U.S. request for an Israeli combat role in the Gulf crisis would "depend on how serious the situation gets militarily."

U.S. President George Bush ordered ground troops and warplanes deployed in Saudi Arabia ostensibly to protect it from a possible Iraqi invasion.

Israeli officials and military analysts expressed doubt that Israel might send combat troops to Saudi Arabia.

"We have not received any such request from the United States, and we do not expect that any such request will be forthcoming," said Avi Pazner, a top aide to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Menachem Meron, a former senior defence ministry official, told army radio it was more likely that Israel would offer the United States indirect, non-combat aid, such as intelligence and logistical support.

He warned that an overt Israeli combat role in inter-Arab conflict might spark a strong Arab reaction.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Book of Adventure
18:00 News summary
18:10 Local programme
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:20 News in English
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:45 Motierism
18:10 Des Chiffres et de lettres
18:30 La Chance aux chaussons
19:00 News in French
19:15 Sirocco
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Different world
21:10 The Return of Sherlock Holmes
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Lost in London"

PRAYER TIMES

04:25 Fajr
05:51 (Sunrise)
12:41 Dhuhr
16:21 Asr
19:32 Maghreb
20:58 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622346
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assass International Church Tel. 827981, 865336
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811235
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Slight rise in temperatures will occur and winds will be northerly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman 19 / 32

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Majed Abu Smeich 861635
Dr. Mohammad Inan 633999
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Aqema pharmacy 637055
Naioukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649445
Simoneph pharmacy 637660

AMMAN:
Dr. Ali Shuqairi (—)
Al Shams pharmacy (985238)
ZARQA:
Dr. Randa Shabin (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 121
(directory assistance) 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 660100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 010230
Complaints 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/5
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664714
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musabir Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 66612/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Baitan, Al-Mahajra 771013
Aray, Marja 87611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674153

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

Thousands of Jordanians pledge to defend Iraq

By Mariam M. Shabih
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Four thousand Jordanians have signed up to join a people's army to "help the peoples of Kuwait and Iraq defend themselves against outside aggression," said Mohammed Al Rashdan, secretary-general of the Jordanian Committee for Support of Kuwait, Wednesday.

"We expect to have up to ten thousand by tomorrow," Rashdan told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview.

Rashdan, a Jordanian lawyer, said that men and women had lined up volunteering to go to Kuwait and Iraq. Committee members said that the number of volunteers grew after Jordanians heard news that U.S. troops had arrived in Saudi Arabia and that U.S., British and Soviet ships were heading for the Gulf.

He did not give a figure of how many women volunteered, but said "we told the women that it was not necessary for them to sign up, but they insisted."

Representatives of the recently formed committee visited with Minister of Interior Salem Massadeh Wednesday to discuss their plans. Massadeh advised against sending Jordanians to the two Gulf nations at this time, giving good reasons for not doing so, according to one committee member who attended the meeting.

Whole "tribes" called the committee members Wednesday to announce their willingness to go to the Gulf to "defend it against foreign attacks," according to committee officials. "The popular response has been overwhelming. One man called in today and said 'tomorrow I am bringing in passports of hundreds of relatives of mine,'" Rashdan said.

The formation of the committee, which consists of members of professional associations, unions and public officials, was announced Tuesday and said membership was open to all who wanted to participate in the national effort.

Officials at the Iraqi Embassy in Amman said they appreciated the support but said they were not aware of any Jordanian groups that had gone to Iraq or Kuwait.

Federation praises King's efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — The Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Wednesday sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein voicing support for his efforts to end the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute through Arab mediation.

"We follow Your Majesty's endeavours to heal the rift between Arab countries and express our support for your efforts to end the dispute between Kuwait and Iraq in a manner that would prevent any foreign intervention

in Arab affairs," the cable said. It expressed hope that the King's efforts will be crowned with success.

Meanwhile, representatives of various public and private organisations in Maan voiced total support for Iraq in its endeavours to defend Arab soil in the face of foreign threats.

Following a public rally held in Maan a cable was sent to the Iraqi president voicing Jordanian people's support for Iraq's brave and honourable stand in defence of Arab dignity and rights.

Speakers at the rally also voiced total support for King Hussein who, they said, was exerting relentless efforts to save the Arab region from foreign intervention.

They appealed to all Arab countries to rally behind Iraq and fend off the danger of colonialist powers.

Jordan extends hospitality to Kuwaitis, expatriates

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Tourism is making arrangements for Kuwaitis and Jordanian expatriates working in Kuwait and now spending their holidays in Jordan to continue enjoying Jordanian hospitality notwithstanding the current events in the Gulf region.

Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Kabariti said at a meeting attended by representatives of various tourist agencies, hotels and restaurants that the Kuwaitis and the expatriates are welcome to stay on for as long as it is needed.

"These visitors are welcome to Jordanian homes and tourist centres and will be provided with all necessary facilities during their stay here and will be charged normal rates should they decide to stay at hotels," said Kabariti at the meeting.

The minister was echoing a similar statement by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, two days ago, who said the government had adopted measures to help Kuwaiti nationals stranded in Jordan and the Kuwaitis were welcome to stay in Jordanian homes.

He told a press conference Sunday that he had asked the Central Bank of Jordan to help resolve the problem posed by the suspension of all dealings in Kuwaiti dinars by commercial banks.

Following the prime minister's statement, two Jordanian banks, the Jordan Kuwait Bank and the Housing Bank started accepting Kuwaiti dinars at the banks and receiving one Jordanian dinar in exchange for every Kuwaiti dinar.

According to Kabariti, the Ministry of Tourism will organise visits to various tourist centres, hotels and restaurants to ensure that ministry regulations concerning Kuwaiti nationals are respected.

Children's congress to issue communique on child status

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will Thursday organise a special meeting for the Arab children participating in this year's Arab Children's Congress to discuss topics of concern to children's lives, their health, education and future.

An NHF statement said that 90 children would take part in the discussions which cover various issues including problems that threaten children's lives and ways to provide protection for the children worldwide.

According to the statement, a final communique will be issued at the end of the meeting which will be sent to Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor.

A copy of the communique will be sent to the world summit for children which will be held at the U.N. Organisation in New York on Sept. 29 and 30, as part of the Arab region's contribution to the summit.

Queen Noor Tuesday opened the 10th congress in Amman and distributed gifts and certificates of merit to those who organised the previous congresses. This year's participation brought the number of children participating in the congress to 524.

The children's week-long activities include visits to various places and archaeological sites, meetings with officials and Jordanian families and recreational activities.



KUWEISHED CROSSING: Foreign residents of Iraq and Kuwait cross over to Jordan at the Al Kuweishid border post Wednesday as tension rose in the region with the deployment of American forces in Saudi Arabia (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

Jordanians react angrily to U.S. troops deployment

By Mariam M. Shabih
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians Wednesday reacted angrily to the deployment of U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia and the continued build-up of Western navies in the Gulf. Although the official Jordanian reaction to the dispatch of American troops to the Gulf was guarded and cautious, parliamentarians, political activists and ordinary people condemned the "U.S. military intervention" and continued to voice support for Iraq.

"How is it possible for an Arab country to allow American troops to enter its soil in order to attack another Arab country?" asked a Jordanian engineer referring to the deployment of American troops and air force in Saudi Arabia Tuesday.

"Can't they see that the West and now the Soviet Union are only interested in the oil and not in the sovereignty of Kuwait, 'human rights' or any other such thing?" asked another.

Over the past two days, pan-Arab and left-wing parliamentarians attended rallies and joined committees to drum up support for boycotts of American products and volunteers for the popular people's army. Two rallies were staged Wednesday in the northern city of Irbid and southern city of Karak.

A demonstration by University of Jordan students ended at the Iraqi embassy in Amman voicing support for Iraq's policies in the Gulf.

Pan-Arabist deputies Husni Shihab, Mohammad Faris Tarawneh and Thaqan Hindawi attended a press conference Tuesday announcing a Jordanian committee for the support of the Kuwaiti people, which began registering names of volunteers for the people's army (See story on page 1).

Left-wing deputies Bassam Haddadin, Issa Madanat, Mansur Murad and Faris Nabulsi took part in a conference held by unionists to announce a boycott of American products earlier this week.

On Wednesday, deputies Mansur Murad and Fakhri Kassar warned the U.S. against any military intervention against Iraq.

"It is not long since hundreds of bodies belonging to the U.S. marines were returned to the United States in garbage bags after the U.S. tried to hit the national will of the Lebanese people," the deputies were quoted by Reuters referring to a 1983 truck bombing against the U.S. contingent in a multinational force in Beirut.

"As long as the American government controls the strings of certain Arab governments, conflicts will continue in this region," one left wing parliamentarian told the Jordan Times.

Another member of Parliament said it was a "shame" to see some Arab governments "cooperating with the Americans having so quickly forgotten the stand of their Arab brothers in 1956 during the Suez crisis and those who spilled their blood to protect them from the Ayatollahs for eight years."

The spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood bloc in Parliament, Abdul Latif Arabiyat said that "a united Arab stand is called for at this time. The interference of Americans, or any non-Arab party at this stage is completely unacceptable."

able and a pro-American stand by any Arab country at this point will be a black mark in the history of the Arab World." The bloc commands 22 seats in Parliament.

"Our stand in 1956 was united," said Arabiyat, referring to British-French-Israeli attack on Egypt over the Suez Canal. "I can't understand how any Arab country could stand with a Western power against an Arab country at this time," he added.

A banned Islamic group, the Tahrir Party of Jordan, Wednesday issued a statement in which it said that it would be an unforgivable crime for any Muslim nation to seek the help of a foreign power against any other Muslim country or people. The group, which advocates the establishment of a Muslim nation and the restoration of the caliphate system, in its statement distributed Wednesday described the U.S. and Britain as atheists asserting that any Muslim who calls on those countries for help was betraying God, his Prophet and the faithful.

"Those who turn their countries into landing bases for American, British or other enemies' planes are turning against God, the Prophet, and the nation will not forgive them for this crime," the statement said.

The statement said the party was not applauding Iraq or crying over Kuwait. "We are not applauding Iraq because it failed to annex Kuwait the moment it entered it, and we are not crying over Kuwait because it turned itself into a grazing place for atheist powers who loot the nation's fortunes."

Iraq Wednesday announced it was merging with Kuwait.

The statement said that any aggression on any Islamic country makes it imperative on all Muslim countries to fight the aggressors.

The statement also said that Islamic unity was an obligation "even if blood has to be shed for it."

It is time that the Islamic nation is united so that Americans do not dare to behave like policemen of the world," the statement concluded.

Comparisons

Jordanians generally drew a comparison between the international reaction to Iraq's move into Kuwait and Israel's history of aggression in the region. "International reaction to safeguarding or 'fighting for' human rights of other Arab peoples such as the Lebanese and the Palestinians was quite different if my memory serves me right," said one Jordanian lawyer.

"Where were the protectors of democracy, freedom, human rights and territorial sovereignty when the Zionists invaded, annexed and totally gobbled up Palestine and when they took over half of Lebanon?" The double standards which rule the world are "disturbing," said a retired army officer who did not want to be identified.

A sheikh leaving a mosque in the Shmeisan area of the capital said "the interference of non-Muslims and foreigners in an inter-Arab dispute could spell disaster to those that have given them a free hand in our area."

"If those responsible for protecting the holiest shrines of Islam are allowing foreigners to use their territory to attack a Muslim and Arab people they have ceased to be worthy of their task," said another man leaving the mosque.

Many Western Europeans were reportedly making plans to send their families home, fearing a hostile, anti-Western atmosphere in the Jordanian capital. But His Majesty King Hussein, in his press conference Wednesday, said there was no danger facing foreigners in the country.

Local food stores reported that people were buying up canned food and basic food staples such as rice, sugar and flour in anticipation of possible repercussions of the Gulf conflict on Jordan.

"If Iraq is attacked by the Americans, then we will also suffer and we have to prepare ourselves for any situation," said one man who was buying food staples massively Wednesday at a local supermarket.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Senate to discuss NMI law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament will hold a meeting Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the presence of its speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the council of ministers. The House will discuss a resolution taken by the committee jointly formed from the legal and the education committees approving a draft law on the annulment of the National Medical Institution (NMI) for the year 1990. The Lower House of Parliament's meeting on Wednesday was postponed for lack of quorum.

Deputies meet Irbid citizens

IRBID (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament deputies Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, Kamel Al Omari, Salim Al Zu'bi and Jamal Haddad Wednesday held a meeting with Irbid citizens at the Professional Association Complex in the city to discuss local and national issues. The citizens called for Arab efforts to counter campaigns against Iraq and the Arab Nation and stressed the need to settle Arab disputes without foreign intervention.

Zarqa officials review road closure

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa governor met Wednesday several officials in the governorate to discuss a decision ordering the closure of the Amman-Irbid road by the end of the year due to construction works. The governor and the officials discussed ways to cope with the expected increase in traffic since Zarqa has two alternative roads for the Amman-Irbid highway.

2,800 families receive ministry help

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Social Development is prepared to provide assistance to more than 2,800 needy families, Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Shreideh said Wednesday. The assistance includes helping families establish income-generating projects such as handicrafts, traditional industries and animal breeding. Shreideh asked needy families to present application forms to directors of social development departments and centres in the Kingdom.

Steps taken for setting handicapped club

IRBID (Petra) — The steps needed to establish Al Karamah Club for the physically handicapped in Irbid were discussed Wednesday in a meeting held at Yarmouk University. Irbid Deputy Governor Hani Sawagad said the government wanted to establish the club in Irbid to meet the needs of the physically handicapped in the governorate and to develop their talents.

Balqa commemorates martyrs of Israeli raid

SALT (Petra) — Citizens in Balqa Governorate marked Wednesday the anniversary of the martyrs of the Israeli raid on Ain Hazir in Salt in 1968. President of Al Salt Forum of Culture and Arts Mohammad Subhi delivered a speech in a ceremony to commemorate the martyrs. He said the unity between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples gives both Jordanians and Palestinians the power to stand in the face of challenges. Subhi said the Salt forum will build a monument to commemorate the martyrs of Al Balqa Governorate. Deputy Marwan Al Rimoud also delivered a speech in which he reviewed Jordan's role in defending the Palestinian cause.

Club donates money to martyr's fund

AMMAN (Petra) — Under directives from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the President of the Royal Turf Federation Major-General Salem Al Turk presented the proceeds of the turf festival, which was held at Al Hussein Youth City June 17, to the director of the Armed Forces Martyrs Fund.

Basketball championship final held

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for Jordanian Armed Forces chief of staff, the inspector general attended the final basketball match of the Armed Forces' championship held between the 12th Royal Mechanised Division and the Fifth Royal Armoured Division teams.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Exhibition of paintings by 10 Iraqi artists at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery.

Jordan, Libya to cooperate in training programmes

AMMAN (J.T.) — An agreement was signed here Wednesday paving the way for cooperation between the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) of Jordan and the Institute of Administrative Development in Libya.

The agreement provides for close cooperation between the two institutes in designing and implementing training programmes carried out by the private or the public sectors in either country.

The two government-controlled institutes will also exchange visits by trainers, to carry out joint programmes, research, books and publications and expertise, especially in computer work.

They will organise joint seminars specialised in training managers in public administration work.

The head of the Libyan institute, who arrived in Amman Tuesday, held talks with the officials at the IPA and the Civil Service Commission (CSC), which normally processes applications for appointment to public offices and cooperates with the IPA in training government employees.

Wednesday's announced agreement came two days after a visit to Libya by Health Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben during which he concluded initial agreements for bilateral cooperation in health and medical affairs and for the employment of more Jordanian physicians and specialists in Libyan hospitals and health centres.

Workshop reviews rural development in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Wednesday organised a one-day workshop to discuss rural development in Jordan and a study conducted in this field by an RSS team.

Representatives of various concerned ministries and organisations, who took part in the workshop, reviewed the study which is composed of six chapters dealing with various aspects of rural development, obstacles impeding it, the role of private and public organisations in contributing to this development, infrastructure projects in rural areas, social services to the residents and income-generating projects that could be initiated for the local population.

The study offers a set of recommendations and proposals for improving the standard of living of citizens in the rural regions.

RSS President Hani Mulqi addressed the opening session noting that the study was designed to help all concerned officials and specialists in their planning and in their work to serve rural development objectives.

The study recommends that coordination be maintained among various concerned departments so that they can cater for the needs of the people in the rural areas and contribute effectively towards the implementation of industrial, agricultural and tourism projects.

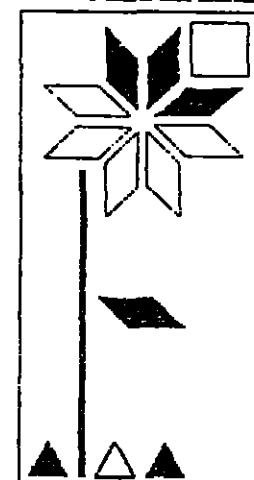
A working paper entitled: "Social Infrastructure in the Lower Zarqa River Basin Region" was reviewed by the participants who included Jordanian and non-Jordanian Arab specialists in rural development affairs.

Drive carefully!
Traffic can be hazardous.

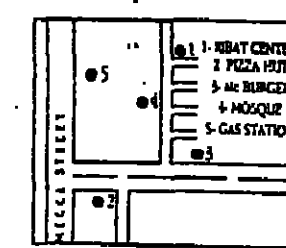
Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein

IN COOPERATION WITH NOOR AL HUSSEIN FOUNDATION AND THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDED BY U.S. AID

THE HANDICRAFT SUMMER EXHIBITION



quilts leather handbags beachbags
collector's dolls picture frames olive oil soap
Thursday, 9 - Wednesday 15 August, 1990
11:00 am - 9:00 pm At Al Ribat Center



Jordan River Designs
a Save the Children project

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الجزيرة الأردنية السياسية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Glimmers of hope and burning flames

THE SHIFTING grounds of the Middle East yesterday witnessed the introduction of a most dangerous element to the already explosive situation in the Gulf area: that of deploying U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia. Just what exactly these forces will be doing there, nobody knows for sure. The U.S. president, in his speech to Americans yesterday, maintained that they are there in defence of an American "vital" interest, namely the security of Saudi Arabia. But others saw in the deployment an attempt to establish a beachhead for U.S. forces who might be called upon to attack Iraq at a later stage. What and who is to be believed?

Those who know Bush's thinking, and some of them are veteran observers from the U.S. and Western Europe, say that the size of the U.S. force sent to Saudi Arabia was in fact much larger than had been announced. This contingent, along with the continuing build-up of Western navies in Gulf waters, was reaching such size that the troop concentration could rapidly move from a defensive to an offensive capability. So, even if you believe what the U.S. president says about the "defensive" nature of his troops' mission, there is still the strong likelihood that they would be used for an attack against Iraq. This is the argument that somehow strengthens the case of the sceptics who insist that the U.S. administration had in fact made up its mind on the "need" to fight a war with Saddam Hussein and his country.

The argument is reinforced not only by the four stated goals of the U.S. in the Gulf, but also by various statements and actions that were made and taken over the past two days. Egyptian President Mubarak's statement yesterday that a conflagration was imminent, and the closure of the Iraqi pipelines going through Saudi territory to the port of Yanbu are but two examples of the ominous developments. The fact that Riyadh had resolved to allow U.S. troops on its soil, having opposed in both principle and practice the stationing of any foreign troops in the Gulf for so long, also tells of the chaos bordering on the unthinkable that has hit the Gulf, the Middle East and the whole world at this point in our history.

Iraq, for its part, was preparing for the worst possible scenario. The Americans yesterday let it be known that the Iraqis were loading their fighter aircraft with chemical weapons, and that, according to the Americans, the Iraqis were doing this under the U.S. watchful eyes: satellites and reconnaissance. The Iraqi president has also made no secret of his intention "to die rather than live without dignity," meaning that Iraq would fight to the end if it were attacked or humiliated. And as if to make his point crystal clear he decided to merge with Kuwait regardless of what anybody or country thought and did in the dangerous game that is being played out in the region today.

Is there a glimmer of hope left to avert war and massive destruction in view of the extremely tense situation? We do not know. This is the most severe crisis that the Middle East has witnessed, King Hussein was saying yesterday. And if there is hope, much of it should be in the hands of the Arab summit that will be held today or tomorrow in Egypt.

Arab leaders can indeed do a great deal to bring the area back from the brink. But it is not only they who must shoulder their responsibilities and share the burden for solving the problem. There are others, in Washington and elsewhere, who must shed their monopolistic approach to the truth and supremacy in order to facilitate dialogue instead of violence and peace instead of war.

The Americans in particular have to review policies that they have long adopted so that other peoples of the world can deal with them equitably, honestly and fairly. We in the Arab World have had chronic problems and rough times dealing with America's double standards, narrow self-interests and gunboat diplomacy. In much of what Saddam Hussein had to say, American policy-makers persistently and consistently tried to find the "loose tiger," the "snake" and the "new Hitler." They never found the watchword which he spoke on behalf of all Arabs: that we are a peace-loving nation which wants understanding and ties based on mutual respect and interests with all the peoples of the earth, including the Americans and even our enemies the Israelis. Whether the Americans took no note of or ignored our message throughout the past four decades is not the issue now. Volumes could be written on it. The issue is whether the Americans will finally come to understand the problem upon which the many conflicts of this area have rotated. Then, and only then, would there be a chance of establishing lasting peace and stability and continued flow of oil and trade and culture in and out of this region.

U.S. interventionist policies come under attack; calls for supporting Iraq strengthen

JORDANIAN newspaper columnists Wednesday devoted their writings to the crisis in the Gulf and its related developments. Most of the writers blasted the U.S. for what they saw as its role in igniting the conflict and its interventionist policies in the Gulf region. Four columnists highly praised His Majesty King Hussein for his wise and courageous stand in defence of the Arab Nation. Tareq Masarweh, leading columnist of Al Ra'i Arabic daily, described how the King "for over half an hour (length of his TV interview with CBS news) Dan Rather" addressed Americans at their very homes telling them what every ordinary Arab would say.

Addressing the King, Masarweh said: "Believe me sir, these are the most dangerous times in our contemporary history. Our country, after this, will not be the same. The genie has left its bottle."

Ahmad Al Dabbas, writing in Al Shaab daily, said that the King has said on TV more than any other courageous Arab leader would say. Dabbas saluted the King for his "honour-

able stand," in putting Arab national interests "above any other concern."

Writing in Al Dustour, columnist Mu'nes Razaz said that Arabs faced difficult times. "Either the Arabs become the Americans' policemen in the area or become masters of their own land," Razaz wrote. "We are facing the test of results of which will decide if we deserve a free and dignified life or not."

Mohammad Naji Amaireh, writing in Al Ra'i, said that American intervention was "not intended to defend Kuwait nor its independence, as Americans claim; Kuwait, people and land, is part of the Arab Nation, and Iraqi forces entering Kuwait are only moving within the boundaries of the Arab Nation."

"The Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict over borders and oil issues concern only the Arabs, and the dispute can only be solved by the Arabs themselves not the American-imperialist will," Amaireh wrote.

"The real encounter between the Arab tiger and the American beast will show the world who the real violators of

international law are," he concluded.

Al Ra'i columnist Mahmoud Rimawi noted in his column the popular Arab support for Iraq and the lack of fear of a possible military confrontation between the U.S. and Iraq. He said, however, the people were apprehensive that Arab lands might be used for aggression on Iraq.

He said that this popular support was being strengthened by the official Jordanian stand that "proved political wisdom and courage." Rimawi noted that a homogenous political front, comprising Jordan, Iraq and the PLO, had boosted people's enthusiasm. He said that people's enthusiasm to defend Iraq had propelled them to volunteer to join the Iraqi people's army.

Rimawi noted that there were growing convictions that Jordan will not be far from the battleground, in view of the Israeli-American campaign against the Kingdom.

Columnist Fahd Al Faneh, in his daily column in Al Ra'i, predicted that economic sanc-

tions against Iraq would fail.

"The weapon of economic sanction is not an effective one," Faneh said. "The experience of sanctions against South Africa, Israel and Panama have proven this." Faneh said that an embargo on Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil would raise the price to as much as \$50 per barrel, "which America and its allies would not want."

"As for military intervention, this is near impossible," he said. "The Iraqi army is larger and more motivated than any combatant U.S. forces. The Iraqis have long battle experience, while the Americans have no good reason to fight and die in the Gulf where humidity reaches 100 per cent and temperatures are unbearably high."

Abdul Rahim Omar, the President of Jordanian Writers Association, waged a scathing attack on the Americans for interfering in the Gulf crisis.

"Those who support Israel's occupation of territories from four Arab countries and who put all their military, financial and political power in support of Zionist aggression have no right to interfere in Arab

affairs," he wrote.

"Those killers who have put political and diplomatic action on par with crime have no right to chart our future."

"Our people will throw them out of our lands, waters and skies, and they shall not be able to carry out aggression against one nation."

Columnist George Hadad, writing in Al Dustour noted how American and Israeli politicians chose to distance the name of Israel from the conflict. He said that the postponement of Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy's visit to Washington was only a decoy meant to mislead Arabs that the Americans do not intend to involve Israel in the present crisis.

"The U.S. administration wants to facilitate the atmosphere for (some) Arabs to join in America's campaign thus embarrassing them before the eyes of their people," he said.

Warning against complacency with the U.S. Hadad said that "nobody has the right to provide cover for the forces of evil" that intend to wage war against the Arabs.

"Shouldn't we all send greet-

ings to Iran for its honourable stand refusing all foreign intervention in the Gulf?" Hadad asked.

Dr. Jihad Berghouti, writing in Al Dustour, likened what is taking place today with the times when the late Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal.

He recalled how Britain and France in collaboration with Israel had moved their navies and armies to occupy the canal zone and Sinai.

He said that although the situation was similar, the Arabs of today were different.

"With King Hussein, President Saddam, Chairman Arafat, (Yemeni President) Ali Abdullah Saleh and (Sudanese President) Omar Hassan Al Bashir, we all stand as one man despite the might of America and its allies, and some other Arabs as well."

"Our dignity which has been trampled on through the years, our wealth that has been looted and our unity that has been shattered, are all being restored by Saddam Hussein. We thank you Saddam, so march forward Saddam, we are all with you."

S. Arabia

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. officials said in Washington Wednesday that Bush hoped troops from Egypt, Turkey, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates would join the American forces sent to Saudi Arabia. Both Egypt and Morocco rejected the request.

U.S. defence officials reported Iraq may be loading chemical weapons on warplanes for possible use in any conflict.

Bush said Iraq had massed an enormous war machine in Kuwait on the Saudi border, complete with surface-to-surface missiles, tanks, artillery and more than 100,000 troops. These forces are capable of attacking at any time, he said.

"Given the Iraqi government's history of aggression against its own citizens as well as its neighbours, to assume Iraq will not attack again would be unwise and unrealistic," he said.

Bush, in a speech televised from his office in the White House, said Iraq's aggression is a problem for the world to be addressed by the lessons of history.

"America does not seek conflict, nor do we seek to chart the destiny of other nations," Bush said. "But America will stand by her friends. The mission of our troops is wholly defensive. Hopefully, they will not be needed long."

"They will not initiate hostilities, but they will defend themselves, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and other friends in the Gulf," he added.

But, Bush said, "we must recognise that Iraq may not stop using force to advance its ambitions."

Bush said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein committed an "outrageous and brutal act of aggression" with the Aug. 2 blitzkrieg-like invasion of its tiny neighbour.

The "puppet-regime" it installed there, he said, must be removed and Hussein must pull out his estimated 100,000 combat-seasoned troops from Kuwait.

"History teaches us anything, it is that we must resist aggression, it will destroy our freedoms," Bush said.

"Appeasement does not work. As was the case in the 1930s, we see in Saddam Hussein an aggressive dictator threatening his neighbours. Only 14 days ago, Saddam Hussein promised his friends he would not invade Kuwait. And four days ago, he promised the world he would withdraw... his promise is a lie."

He said he is determined to defend the security and stability of the Gulf and to protect American citizens there.

Bush said he began forming what will be a multi-national force to assist Saudi Arabia after "perhaps unparalleled international consultation, and exhausting every alternative..."

U.S. administration officials, who asked not to be named, said the United States had evidence that trucks such as those used to transport chemical arms had been seen approaching aircraft in Iraq. They suggested the information had been presented to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia this week by Defence Secretary Cheney, and that Fahd subsequently asked Bush for military assistance.

Bush in his speech said he would ask oil-producing nations to increase production to help make up the loss of the five million barrels of crude a day that Iraq and Kuwait produce, to minimise the impact to the world economy.

He called on Americans to con-

sult with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, and NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner "all agree that Iraq cannot be allowed to benefit from its invasion of Kuwait."

Bush said his decision was based on four principles — the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government, security and stability in the Gulf, and a determination to protect American lives.

He provided no details on the troop movements, but U.S. officials said on Tuesday that some 5,000 troops would be part of an initial deployment to Saudi Arabia. But reports indicated that this could be much higher.

Bush said he was sending units from the 82nd airborne division and key elements of the U.S. air force to Saudi Arabia as part of a force U.S. officials expect to include troops from some Arab states.

So far, only Britain has said publicly that it will also contribute to the force. But Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said earlier on Wednesday that his country would consider joining a multinational force.

Defence department sources said the U.S. forces deployed in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf will include heavy tanks for possible ground battles and sophisticated cruise missiles programmed to destroy specific Iraqi targets.

Sources described a force of U.S. army and air force troops numbering in the thousands, backed by about 140 sophisticated fighters and bombers.

U.S. warships already were in the region, to be joined by others for a possible blockade or military action.

The New York Times reported Wednesday that the United States was ready to ask the Soviet Union to join a naval blockade, and also had indicated to China, Britain and France that a blockade force would be needed soon. But the Soviet Foreign Ministry called a blockade "not the best line to take."

The aircraft carrier Eisenhower made its way through the Suez Canal Wednesday and headed for the Arabian Sea, joining the carrier Independence for possible blockade duty or even as a platform for attack aircraft in the Gulf waterway.

The question of Egypt's and Morocco's participation in the force is important because Saudi Arabia reportedly has insisted that other Arab states join with the United States in sending troops to counter Iraq.

There was hope that such a defence of Saudi Arabia would deter the million-man Iraqi army from crossing the border.

The announcement by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd that Britain would participate in the multinational force followed a conversation between Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and King Fahd.

Hurd said the Saudis asked for British help, and Britain was in contact with the United States and other allies on the best contribution it could make.

He said it was too soon to specify which forces Britain would send, but he added: "We are essentially talking about naval and air force."

France has said it has not been asked to take part in the multinational force and that participation was not "envisioned at this stage."

Turkey, which closed twin Iraqi oil pipelines to the Mediterranean Tuesday, also was not asked to join such a force, said Turkey's Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungan.

Boon Wednesday signalled readiness to allow the U.S. military to use American facilities in West Germany as a "basis for operations" for soldiers headed to Saudi Arabia.

But the West German government said Tuesday that there were no plans for German troops to join the multinational force, noting that the West German constitution bars the use of German troops outside the country.

King: Cairo summit 'last chance' to avert war

(Continued from page 1)

ing a solution to the Gulf crisis. He said he was "not sure" who was attending the summit.

Although King Hussein did not outline a specific plan for a settlement, he said that he did not recognise the new regime in Kuwait yet. At the same time, he stressed the need for other Arab states to understand Iraq's economic concerns.

King Hussein, however, opposed the Iraqi declaration of union with Kuwait and reiterated commitment to the Arab League Charter which upholds the principle of the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force.

"I have said time and again that Jordan stands by this principle which it upholds, which it has upheld, time and again in the past, wherever this applies," he said.

"Jordan recognises the emiri regime in Kuwait," King Hussein affirmed.

King Hussein refrained from directly attacking the American decision to send troops to Saudi Arabia or Riyadh's acceptance of Washington's help.

"The U.S. can decide as it obviously does what it believes it is right. Saudi Arabia is a sovereign state and it has the right in seeking any kind of help that it believes it is in need of. It is not for me to say whether this right or not," he remarked.

The King, however, went in what seemed like a warning of the results

of such a step. "I believe that time will tell if it was (right) or otherwise. However, I always thought and adhered to my commitment that we in the Arab World have a duty within ourselves deal with our problems as rapidly and in a manner that is adequate to any challenge we face," he said in a reiteration of his preference and insistence on a solution within the Arab context.

Jordanians here have reacted angrily to the American decision and were extremely critical of the positions of Saudi Arabia and Egypt. At the press conference King Hussein said he was aware of the "frustration and anger of millions of Arabs" at the inability of Arab leaders to solve their problems by themselves.

King Hussein, however, said that his government was studying how to deal with sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council against Iraq. King Hussein disclosed that the government was "studying" of the measures to be adopted accordingly. "Jordan is a member of the United Nations and understands fully its obligations under the charter," he said.

In a rather ironic tone, King Hussein did not oppose the Security Council resolution but emphasised the selective manner in which the sanctions applied.

In a humorous, but extremely critical, and lengthy remark, the King expressed what appeared to be disappointment and bitterness over the international community's failure to act to address the Arab rights and plights in the past.

"We are amazed and probably optimistic," he said. "Optimistic even at this moment in seeing how the world can be mobilised and galvanised to achieve an objective... optimistic after long year of disappointment in the ability of the world to come together to apply the charter of the U.N. on problems," he remarked in reference to the almost complete international consensus against Iraq.

"Hopefully, this new trend will be applied wherever and whenever, and on whomsoever merits the world's attention," he said in an indirect reference to the United Nations' failure to impose any sanctions against Iraq.

King Hussein also criticised the international media for taking part in creating and perpetuating images and perceptions that could help fuel conflicts.

The King's remarks, which pointed out the differences in perceptions and lack of understanding among cultures and nations, were in response to a question by Western journalists on the contrast between the image of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in the West "as a monster" and his popularity in Jordan.

"I would like to say in this regard we find it very difficult in this part of the world to understand how perceptions can be formulated... to understand the criteria... the reasons," the King said.

"For example, I am now an extremist," he said jokingly in implicit reference to recent criticism of his positions in the Western media.

In a sign of dissatisfaction of the way international community handled the Gulf crisis and attitude towards the Arab World, King Hussein described the state of international relationship as "a universal dictatorship."

"It seems that the criteria is not very clear to the point that at times feels we are living in a dictatorship... a universal dictatorship... and the media has a lot to do with it regarding creating the perceptions," he said.

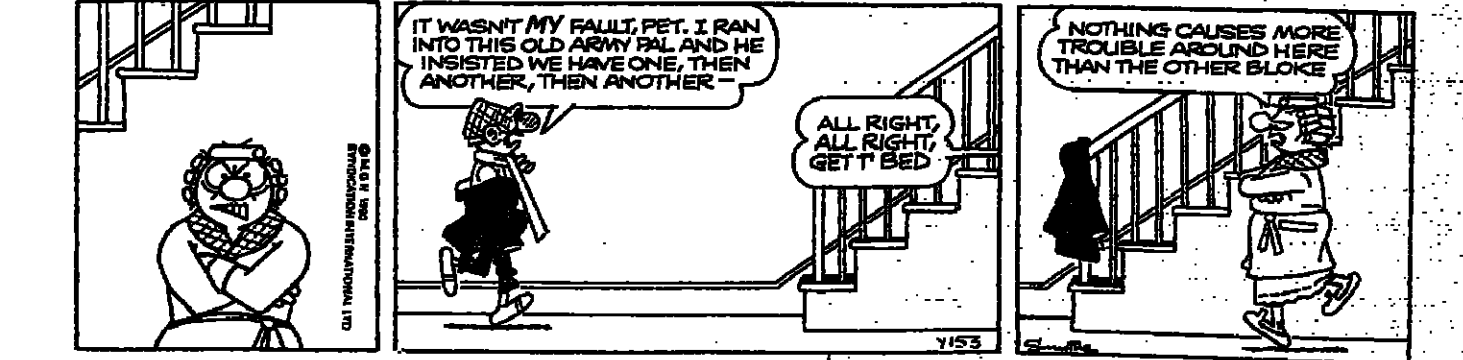
King Hussein indicated that international attitude or media perceptions did not influence his stance. He said that in this recent crisis he acted upon his conscience and "I have incurred the wrath of many in this world... I am acting and still acting to fulfil my duties towards my people."

Drive carefully!
Traffic can be hazardous.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Jordan Times WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

Aug. 9, 1990 [A]

Abu Dahbal — an Arab poet lost in history

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Circassian national author and retired officer by the name of Arslan Ramadan, whose tradition is to seek out old books, found a publication translated and researched by an English editor. The subject dealt with an Arab poet who was born shortly after the death of the Prophet Mohammad, but no one has read any of his material since the editor published his investigations in 1910. In an attempt to save the poet from oblivion and to further promote a well known romanticist in his times, Ramadan, endeavors to re-publish the book on account that the Arab poets, writers, researchers and philologists will make use of the knowledge that will be gained from learning about the poet.

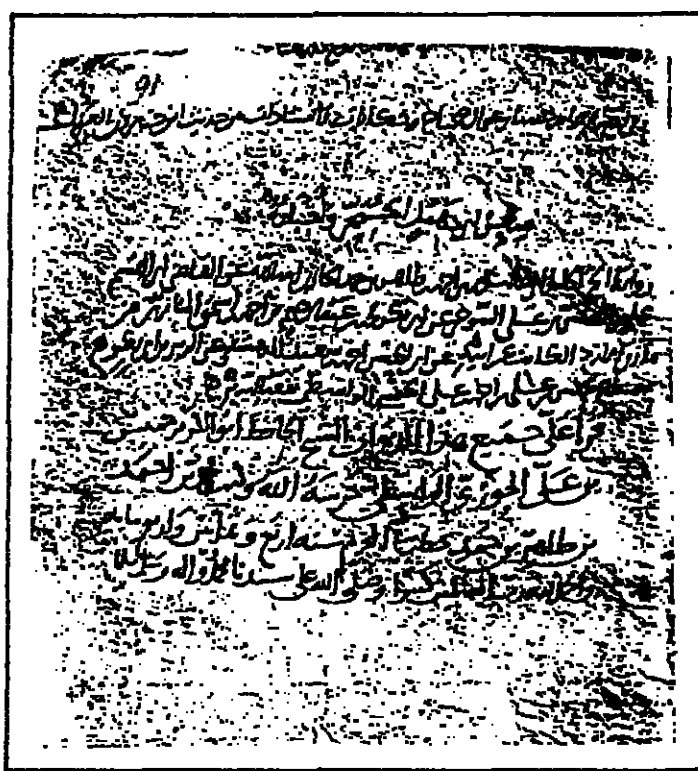
Ramadan reminisces about the story of how he found the book and what led him to investigations that revealed the book had been untouched for so long; back in 1979 in London "I was roaming around town one day when I came across an old book-store. As I have a passion for books, I could not help but look inside the store." Ramadan continues recollecting that he saw himself gliding at a book entitled "The Diwan of Abu Dahbal" written by Fritz Krenko. "I scanned the pages inside which revealed

that the book was published in 1910 by the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland (JRAS). What struck me was that it was untouched, unpublished since its date of publishing," says Ramadan incredulously.

What was more astonishing, he adds, was that in a book written by Dr. Abdel Rahman Al Badawi, who had published a study about the editor Fritz Krenko which tells of Krenko's life and touches on the books Krenko edited, "not one word was mentioned on Abu Dahbal," says Ramadan. He explains that this missing link drove his curiosity into profound investigations. "I asked universities in Jordan and other Arab countries. I asked poets and other people concerned but nobody had even heard of the name Abu Dahbal."

This rare Diwan (a collection of poetry) Ramadan felt was worth reviving "for researchers, scholars and those interested in our Arabic heritage to read and benefit from its contents."

Krenko, who edited the story in 1910, was born in 1872 in Schonberg, a town in northern Germany. A student of Sachau University, Krenko specialised in oriental studies and in 1902 he left for London to work in a textile factory. After spending the required number of years in



Diwan of Abu Dahbal (title page)

London, Krenko was able to obtain an English citizenship and from there he took to working in Jras where he devoted his time to research work in the field of religion, history, physics and medicine. Here, Krenko found the works of Abu Dahbal and began translating his material and digging into the poet's life.

Abu Dahbal all Jumahi, whose true name is Wahbe Bin Zam'a Bin Ousayed Bin

Ouhayouha, originates from Quraish, the family of the Prophet Mohammad, and is a notable one from a tribe in Mecca known as Jumah. According to Krenko's evaluation, there is evidence that Abu Dahbal was born shortly after the death of the Prophet Mohammad. According to a philologist, "he composed his first poems towards the end of the reign of Caliph Ali," Krenko writes, "although poems during this time were

not been preserved." During his time, he was known for being a romantic poet, filled with compassion. In the "Diwan of Abu Dahbal" Krenko writes a valuable introduction about him based on his long years of investigations.

Krenko's publication states that although Quraish was not recognised for producing great poets, there were five well known poets during the first century, but only the work of three of their work was preserved. They are: Umar Al Mahzumi, Abu Dahbal Al Gumahi, and Ibn Qais Ar Ruqayyat. In a comparison between the Jumah poetry and other tribes, Krenko notes that "a lighter vein appears to pervade all these poems." The Jumah tribe were taken to shorter metres and shorter poems. The representation of the desert and animals are virtually non-existent," Krenko writes, "these men were born and brought up in towns. How could they share the ideas of the Bedouin Arab roving through the wide country?"

A remarkable observation from Krenko tells the reader that the poems of Abu Dahbal appear generally in one piece although Krenko cannot deny that "here and there verses have got lost." He adds, that the Diwan which attained during the Abbasides time is a transition of a new era and has become a model for Arabic poetry down to modern times.

Krenko found that the earliest pieces of the Diwan were poems characterising Atika, who was the daughter of the Caliph, otherwise known as Mu'awiya. In the publication, Krenko states the story of how Abu Dahbal encountered Atika. According to his poetry. Apparently while Atika was in Mecca performing the rites of the pilgrimage, Abu Dahbal saw her, was taken by her and began writing poetry on this woman. The story follows that while Abu Dahbal told a friend about the woman, Atika eventually heard and was curious to find out who Abu Dahbal was. Succeeding numerous meetings, Abu Dahbal followed her to Damascus where he soon found out that his life would change.

Krenko recounts of how Mu'awiya (Atika's father) finds out about their relationship through a poem Abu Dahbal wrote. Two lines of that poem caught the father's eye. They went like this: "Then I led her by the hand to the green pavilion, we were both walking upon unpolished marble." Although he believes that "Atika would guard her honor" Yazid, who appears as Atika's brother, feels more threatened by Abu Dahbal and would stop at nothing to have the relationship annihilated.

The story carries on in this manner as a battle between the three men and somewhat of a cat and mouse game. But

later in the year, Mu'awiya travels to Mecca again to seek out Abu Dahbal. There, the Caliph asks Abu Dahbal if he is interested in another woman while the poet discloses a certain cousin to whom he would like to marry. According to Krenko's account, Mu'awiya gives the woman a dowry of 2,000 dinars and 1,000 dinars for Abu Dahbal.

Krenko's investigations lead him to find out that "the record in the Diwan speaks of him (Abu Dahbal) staying in Syria, till his wife and family believed him to be dead, and this is also expressed in the poem itself."

Krenko notes that because of the animosity between the poet and Yazid, Abu Dahbal drew himself close to the enemies of the Caliph and began writing poems with malicious intent. "In fact the bulk of his poems which are preserved are addressed to Ibn Al Azraq Abdullah, who was for a time governor of Al Ganad in Yemen for Abdullah Ibn Az Zubair." But Krenko states that he was unable to find the date when Abdullah Ibn Az Zubair held this post.

Other poems dating back to 73 a.h. (after Hijra) reveal a struggle of Abdullah Ibn Az Zubair and his followers against an army sent by Abdul Malik Bin Marwan (the TV Umayyad caliph) to fight against the holy cities. A certain Uthman Abd Allah appears to have been slain at that time while Abu Dahbal "escaped with his life." And then no one heard from the poet for a long time until Suleiman Abdul Malik went to Mecca in 88 a.h. questioning Abdullah Ibn Az Zubair on the poems referring to the caliph's grandfather. But Krenko's investigations show that Abu Dahbal only wanted the forget about the past.

According to Krenko, the last he was able to uncover about Abu Dahbal was a poem addressed to the Caliph Al Walid. "Apparently Abu Dahbal had gone from Mecca to Damascus to beg favours from the sovereign. He asserts that he is from a kin of the Caliph." Krenko adds that, "I have not been able to find out more. The allusions of some smaller poems are dark."

"The editor concludes that Abu Dahbal's poems were left to oblivion. While it was the duty of the philologists of the following century to collect and edit the Diwans of the classical poets, 'they appear to have overlooked him.'"

If it is true that Abu Dahbal was a notable then it is interesting to find out more about the reflection of his life through the poems. For researchers or people concerned, it is a valuable piece of information to go on with the story of Abu Dahbal once it is published. "I feel it is important. This is one more distinguished poet to add to the list," says Ramadan.

Acropolis temples undergo most extensive work since 5th century BC

By Stephen Weeks
Reuter

ATHENS — The Acropolis temples, towering over Athens and recalling the glories of ancient Greece, are undergoing their most ambitious restoration since Pericles had them built 2,500 years ago.

The project, expected to run well into the next century, has transformed the ancient hill-top sanctuary visited by three million tourists a year into a bustling construction site.

Mobile cranes lift nine-tonne blocks of marble overhead and masons, mostly from the island of Tinos where a tradition of masonry survives, cut and chisel new slabs of shining stone.

Three temples are being dismantled and rebuilt, including the massive parthenon, and extensive work is being done on the marble entrance and the 156-metre hillside itself.

"I want you to realise what a big work this is, the scale of this," Cornelia Hadziaslani, an archaeologist and architect with the culture ministry said during a recent walk around the city's best-known landmark.

Pericles, who ruled during the height of Athenian democracy between the defeat of the Persians in 480 BC and the start of the disastrous Peloponnesian war against Sparta in 431-404 BC, ordered the work begun in 447 BC.

He wanted the temples — the Parthenon, the Erechtheion and the Athena Nike — to make Athens the most beautiful as well as the most powerful city in ancient Greece.

What remains to this day is a unique combination of beauty, grandeur and historical association. Each temple is considered a classical masterpiece.

"The best of the city's craftsmanship was concentrated upon the execution of this supreme achievement," British historian Cyril Robinson said of the Parthenon. "The world has never seen its like, nor is it probable that it will see its like again."

Over the years the temples were broken by earthquakes and cannon fire, transformed from pagan shrines into Christian churches and Muslim mosques, and even used for Turkish harems.

The graceful Athena Nike was dismantled in the 17th century to make a Turkish cannon battery. The latest assault comes from modern-day pollution and mistakes made in earlier restorations.

"We never would have thought of breaking the monuments but we have to remove the iron clamps which hold the marble blocks together," Hadziaslani said.

New clamps, shaped like an S and fitted into grooves cut in the marble, were placed in the stone during a major restoration project at the turn of the century by Nicholas Belanos.

Unlike the ancient Greeks, Belanos failed to pour molten lead around the clamps for protection against corrosion. They

have rusted and swollen, and are splitting the marble stones.

"Belanos did not do that (use molten lead) and he destroyed the monuments but what we see on the Acropolis today is what he did," she said. "He gave the temples their aesthetic quality."

Because the temples must be dismantled block-by-block to replace the iron clamps with corrosion-resistant titanium, the committee for the restoration of the Acropolis, set up when the project began in 1975, decided to carry out other work as well.

Computers and new archaeological techniques are being used to locate the original place of each marble block. When Belanos reconstructed the temples on the Acropolis, he misplaced pieces.

"A block could very well have been used on the north wall while it belonged on the south wall," said Hadziaslani. These will be put back in their rightful positions.

The Erechtheion, renowned for six sculpted marble maidens — the caryatids — which support a southern porch, took 10 years to dismantle and reassemble — some 1,000 pieces in all.

The caryatids were moved to the Acropolis Museum, except for one carried off with other masterpieces by British diplomat Lord Elgin in the early 1800. That is in the British Museum.

Because of heavy pollution in Athens and the wear-and-tear of 15,000 tourists a day in summer, none of the surviving original marble figures will stay on the Acropolis.

Finely-sculpted scenes of pagantry and war which breathe life into ancient Greek gods and myths are being removed, and marble copies or white cement casts will be put in their place.

"Today you don't put sculptures in the open air anywhere in the world," said Hadziaslani, referring to the ravages of air pollution. The caryatids were replaced with white cement casts.

At present most work is on the Parthenon, the masterpiece of classical architecture and for many, one of the great sources of inspiration in western civilisation.

Stone masons, engineers, restoration specialists and others clamour over the Parthenon, chiselling new stones, cleaning old ones and debating how much of the temple should be restored.

"Whatever you do, you are criticised for doing too little or too much," Hadziaslani said.

Such debates have raged for years: whether Europe's ancient and mediaeval monuments should be restored to something akin to their original state or left as crumbled heaps of noble ruins.

The Acropolis committee is charged with striking the right balance and its approval is needed before any work is done. At stake is one of the great achievements of western civilisation.

THOUGHT FOR THIS WEEK

—Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without — Buddha (about 563 B.C. - 483 B.C.).

—If all our misfortunes were lumped together, with everyone forced to take an equal share, people would be glad to take back their own — Socrates, Greek philosopher (about 470 B.C. - 399 B.C.).

—A rich man's joke is always funny — Thomas Brown, English writer (1830 - 1897).

—Behind every argument is someone's ignorance — Louis Brandeis, U.S. Supreme Court Justice (1856 - 1941).

To conquer without risk is to triumph without glory. — Pierre Corneille, French dramatist (1606-1684).

Vegetarians are healthier

LESS fatty meat and sausage. Instead an increase in vegetables rich in roughage — this is obviously the key to a healthy diet. Vegetarians in particular profit from this recipe, particularly in terms of their cardiovascular systems, which are clearly more healthy than those of the "average consumer."

This idea appears to be supported by the Berlin Vegetarian Study, which began in 1985 at the Institute for Social Medicine and Epidemiology of the German Health Office in Berlin and whose preliminary results have now been published. The control group for the 372 participating vegetarians consisted of especially health-conscious individuals, because vegetarians tend to live healthier lives as well as following a vegetarian diet — The German Research Service.

gan in 1985 at the Institute for Social Medicine and Epidemiology of the German Health Office in Berlin and whose preliminary results have now been published. The control group for the 372 participating vegetarians consisted of especially health-conscious individuals, because vegetarians tend to live healthier lives as well as following a vegetarian diet — The German Research Service.

In achieving the best results in:

CATERING, CLEANING, MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Over the past 12 years of excellent service to its customers around the Kingdom.

WECARE ... constant commitment to providing excellent services.

Tel: 601456 - 603408 - 603406 Amman

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday Aug. 9

8:30 A Different World

Wigley causes some damage to Bernards house — in compensation she gives him a cheque which bounces ... and so ends by working in his restaurant.

9:10 The Return of Sherlock Holmes

Secret British naval documents disappear mysteriously — "scot" the sailor is killed. Sir James commits suicide — this is a job for Mr. Holmes.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Lost in London

Starring: Freddie Jones
Janet and "Paul" end their marriage. They have an 8 year old son "David" what is to be done about him? Janet is in London and she's too busy, Paul is in N.Y. and is busy too so David goes out on his own and decides to control his fate in the streets of London.

Friday Aug. 10

8:30 Empty Nest

Did You Ever See a Dream? Linda's husband borrows money to fulfill his lifelong dream "owning a bar" but owning a bar and managing one proved to be two different matters.

9:10 Midnight Caller

10:00 News in English

10:20 Anything More Would Be Greedy

Georgian Silver
Defence Minister, Dennis, gets under pressure to do business with American companies, the Swiss buy, the "Starway" Co. Dennis resigns and becomes Lord

Dennis. More and more dramatic events unfold in this episode.

Saturday Aug. 11

8:30 Joint Account

Episode 1
David is surprised to learn that his new job is somehow connected to the Bank where his wife works, furthermore, he learns that his office is given to his new neighbour "Teresa."

9:10 Encounter

9:30 Classical Music

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Wacky Taxi

Starring: John Astin
Our hero has a dream of owning a fancy car rental office. But this is a difficult wish to realise, especially when we know his jalopy is barely earning him a meager income.

Sunday Aug. 12

8:30 Hey Dad

(Last Week's Episode)

9:10 Documentary

Path of the Rain God Episode 2
After four months of no rainfall, it again falls on one of the richest areas. Rainforests where life is abundant with diverse animals and vegetation life.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Hunter

Broken Dreams
An eyewitness to a crime is in danger of losing her life. Hunter does his best to protect her, but her husband tries to protect her his own way.

Monday Aug. 13

8:30 Perfect Strangers

Here Comes the Judge

Larry is accused of misusing the papers material resources the paper forms a probing committee but Larry promptly summons Balki as a witness to his innocence.

9:10 Murder She Wrote

Who threw the barbitals in Miss Flechers chowder? Elmo dies from food poisoning prior to his death he had a fight with his wife and her brother. Jessica's investigation proves them innocent.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Mystery Movie

Grand Deceptions

Starring: Peter Falk and Andy Romano

Frank is having an affair with the general's wife and is the thief of the club organisation's fund. Franks assistant discovers all this and gets killed, now Colombo is out to discover the truth.

Tuesday Aug. 14

8:30 Golden Girls

Nothing To Four But Fear Itself
Rose's aunt dies, and so she and her old friends fly to give a speech on the occasion, but Rose is afraid of this and decides to rehearse her word on the passengers of the plane ... and it works.

9:10 The Heart of the High Country

The Grevilton, Ceci opened up a salon for the mineworkers and was met by fierce opposition from the mine workers wives. When Ginger asks Ceci to marry him, he realises its too late; Ceci married "Billy".

10:00 News in English

10:20 Paradise

Stray Bullet

When Ethan tries to save Miss 'Lawson' from a drunker's random shooting, he gets accused of trying to murder her, so Ethan flees and law is after him.

11:10 Police Squad

Testimony of Evil
A woman heads a drugs distributing gang and conducts her operation from a nightclub she owns. Inspector Frank works at the nightclub disguised as a singer and successfully penetrates her network.

Wednesday Aug. 15

8:30 A Family For Joe

The Medium
Holly thinks she can talk to her parents through "Diana" the medium, she also gets her brother Nick to believe it. Joe interfered when he sees how serious the kids are taking this whole deal.

9:10 Documentary

Sound of Silence

This documentary is about children with a hearing disability and the role of parents, schools and the specialised institutions in helping the children improve their hearing abilities. The documentary is a German-Jordanian production. Directed by Nael Najdawi.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Mini-Series

Challenger

Episode 2

The I astronauts hold a press-conference and the take off date is approaching but the scientists still argue about a number of different issues. But they all agree that the challenger must take off and the mission must succeed.

A time to live

By E. Yaghi

Sami's long body took up most of the length of the hospital bed. He lay in shattered confusion. His mind was foggy and dazed. He tried to remember the events which brought him to the rough sheets, the antiseptic smell, the sharp point of the I.V. needle and the empty, painful feeling that ripped at his stomach. He heard the clinking of medicine bottles and saw the rush and bustle of crisp white hospital nurses who seemed assured in their ordered and routine affairs.

Sami's eyes misted and grew heavy. He felt he was an old man with all the burdens of the world weighted on his thin frame. In his burning miserable silence his mother fretfully swept into the room and saw that he was finally awake. "Thank God you're alive! Why, why Sami did you do it? Isn't it enough that you flunked the Tawjehi exams, did you have to swallow all those pills to end your life? Only a coward kills himself. It takes a brave man to live and face the consequences of failure. Why, why? My only son. Don't you know that if you die, I will die too? What is your father going to say? How can we explain a suicide attempt to him when he returns from an exhausting day at work?"

He wished he could disappear, retract under the sheets or just cease to exist. His mother's stormy presence brought back the suffocating moments that led up to his decision to commit suicide. He refused to answer his mother's questions or justify his attempt at ending his life. In a nightmare of thought he recounted the steps he had taken.

Only week before, his mother had paced the floors with him, helping him study. Sami felt she had memorised his lessons as much as he had. She was anxious, nervous, concerned, coaxing. Sometimes she would wrap her arm around him and they would stride in concentration together. Sometimes she would break the monotony and bring a sweet cup of fresh tea. In partial treatment for her son, she put her special "guest cups" and used her special "guest tray." The aroma of the green mint tea invited Sami to take a tea break and with renewed vigor and vague peace of mind he returned to the gruelling task of preparing for the Tawjehi exams. His whole future was at stake. Could he make it? Would he make it? He tried not to doubt himself. After all, he was the only son. He must try harder.

His education had been so priceless to his parents, but their poverty was a restriction, a hindrance, an evil enemy. Sami had always been successful in school and his parents had been proud. Too proud. They hung on every grade, every mark. They were obsessive. They were frantic for Sami's success and finally Sami panicked.

The final day came and the Tawjehi tests started. Cool nights with blinking, peaceful stars seemed to belie the fragile tests during stark, sinister days. Sami would study until midnight and then rise early to continue his studies before the exams. He became used to his mother's presence, but she couldn't talk away or kiss away his fears as she had done when he was small.

Sami faced his tests each day with growing apprehension. Everything he had studied seemed to vanish into the thin hot air. Sami had just about memorised his books. What had gone wrong? His mind contained almost nothing. It seemed to be a confused blank.

After the exams, he noticed that his mother's face, relieved, spread in her usual congenial smile. She erroneously seemed to think everything would be fine. Sami knew that he must have answered many questions incorrectly although he knew all the answers beforehand. How could he have committed such a failure?

The day of Sami's reckoning came. He reluctantly went to his school to get his exam scores. He gasped, shocked at his marks. He had flunked! Even though he had inwardly expected as much, the official numbers were like a hard slap on his fallen face.

He was a failure! How could he face his father, his mother, and all his relatives who memorised everyone's Tawjehi grades to the last decimal? He had no hope, no future. There was no need for life at all. Sami somehow dragged himself home, slipped in his room and took a huge dose of pills. The next thing he knew, he was in the hospital.

He slowly, balefully returned to the present. He looked at his mother. He saw her bitter salty tears drip down her ruddy face onto her worn and timeless dress. Sami realised she had suffered so much too. Every step he made, she had been with him. He was her whole life, even though he had failed her and his father miserably, he was still the vertex of their existence.

"Mother, listen," Sami said earnestly, "I'm very sorry for what happened. Please don't cry any more. I was selfish. I wish there wouldn't ever be Tawjehi tests and all the students like me wouldn't have to suffer, but I'll promise you and father one thing: I will try again, and even if I fail, I'll take my failure like a man, not like a coward. Forgive me! Please tell father I'm sorry."

Sami grabbed his mother's hand and squeezed it reassuringly. He saw a beam of light shine in her eyes and he knew he was too young to die or give up. The sky was very blue. The day was so cool. He had his youth before him. Birds were singing in the hospital trees just outside his window and yes, he would try again, for it was yet his time to live.

Gene therapy could cure many thought incurable

By Paul Reer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Gene therapy, a new medical magic bullet in the war on cancer, diabetes and many inherited disorders, could be used on patients for the first time this fall.

A federal panel approved the use of gene therapy for two disorders and a National Institutes of Health Scientist said that if the technique works, it gives medicine a powerful new way to cure the incurable.

"This is the first step in what probably will be a revolution in medicine over the next two decades," said Dr. W. French Anderson, an NIH researcher.

A proposal by Anderson to use gene therapy to treat an inherited immune system disorder and one by Dr. Steven Rosenberg to treat a lethal skin cancer were approved by the recombinant DNA advisory committee at NIH.

The proposals still must be approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), but experts said the NIH panel's OK is the most crucial.

Anderson said the plans by his team and by the Rosenberg team were considered experimental models for the eventual widespread use of gene therapy.

"These two proposals are the best ways to demonstrate that gene therapy works," Anderson said. "From here it should open up into a broad range of therapies for cancer, AIDS, genetic disease and cardiovascular disease."

Anderson said that if he and Rosenberg can prove the concept of using curative genes to treat disease, there already are plans to use similar systems to treat leukaemia, hemophilia, diabetes, aplastic anemia and cancers of the colon and the kidney.

Rosenberg, also an NIH scientist, said his system of using genes to make tumour-fighting blood cells could be adapted to treat nearly every type of cancer. But first, he cautioned, it has to be proven effective in the medical trials which were approved.

"This is only important if it works," he said. "This is very new and one can never be

sure what could happen."

Gerard J. McGarrity, chairman of the NIH panel, called the approval "historic."

"What we're doing today is adding gene therapy to vaccines, antibiotics and radiation in the medical arsenal," he said. "Medicine has been waiting thousands of years for this."

Rosenberg said researchers should know within six months after the treatments start whether or not the gene therapy works.

Both Rosenberg and Anderson said they expect FDA approval of their proposals soon and will start treating patients by this fall.

The therapies approved by the committee both involve manipulating the fundamental genetic pattern within cells by inserting genes that instruct the cells to produce new proteins.

These proteins can fight the disease directly, such as with cancer. Or the proteins could combat disorders by restoring normal hormones or enzymes that were missing.

To create the cells used in gene therapy, scientists first splice the desired gene into the genetic pattern of a harm-

less virus. Target cells, such as lymphocyte blood cells, are cultured so they multiply into billions. The cells then are exposed in test tubes to the genetically altered virus.

The virus infects the cells and inserts its genetic pattern, which includes the transplanted gene, into the gene structure of the cell. The target cells and their offspring will then contain the new gene.

Rosenberg plans to add a gene to a blood cell called the tumour-infiltrating lymphocyte, or TIL.

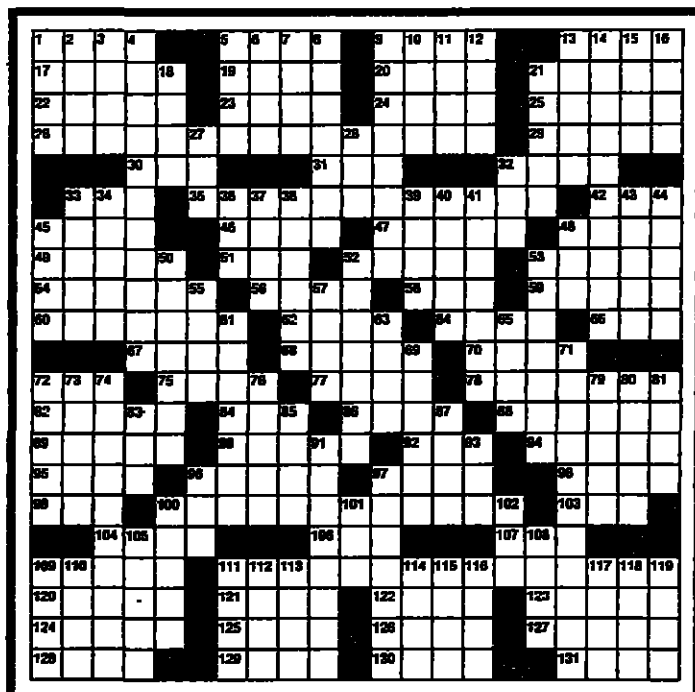
This cell will normally seek out and attack a cancerous tumour, but it is not strong enough by itself to control the tumour.

Rosenberg earlier developed a way to remove TIL cells from a patient, multiply them in a test tube and then return the cells to the patient's blood stream.

This procedure has been used in patients with malignant melanoma, a lethal skin cancer, and about half have improved. It is the half who died that led Rosenberg to turn to gene therapy to improve the technique.

Weekend Crossword

Edited by Herb Ettenson



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Prenuptial agreement argument caused cancelled marriage plans.
2. Broadway restaurant may use a few potted palms for tropical ambience.
3. Lisea first to life's crowning music, then each man must sing his own song.
4. Figure this out: How come we get cocoa from cacao trees?

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. LASH BACQ NLTPAWQM: "GEIP RT PERT FLY
HARDY RD WZ TALK" YMLWKZ GIRPQM:
"SAACT BLTP SRQ PEQ FINCTPMACQ"

—By Ed Haddleson

2. JBLQBELBL CSLAC BEKN NSDDHSFI YSDDE
RAELBL CSQ JBEH QAK YBYBJN, IJAEFN

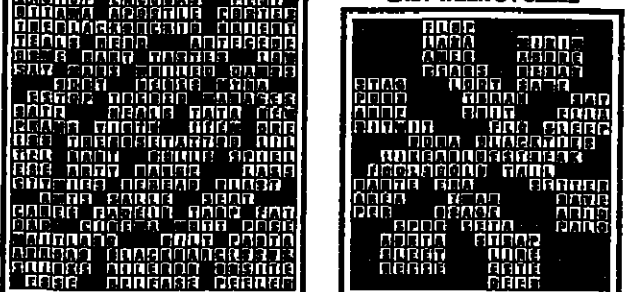
—By Earl Ireland

3. VORTC CTCILMGZSW CNQC, FVICZMQ VIC
QSAFNL ZRM RONSWEK MR AYBC MGCSI
BSEQ GVFFL

—By Gordon Miller

4. VBU UNSOLVED NIX VS APHYI XSPLDSEY:
APLEX IYH DSS NIVO.

—By Norton Rhoades

SOLUTIONS OF
LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

SPECTRUM

By Mark S. Kalbach

- ACROSS
- 1 Starting at
 - 2 To dole out
 - 3 Transport
 - 4 Variable star
 - 5 Kalmann's land
 - 6 Knapucaine
 - 7 Record
 - 8 Qr. architecture
 - 9 — say more?
 - 10 Impudence
 - 11 In addition
 - 12 Renewal
 - 13 Rarely
 - 14 "Lou Grant"
 - 15 Railroad bed
 - 16 timber
 - 17 Dream sign
 - 18 Casini
 - 19 Chin, name
 - 20 One of a set's group?
- DOWN
- 1 — Domini
 - 2 Spotted
 - 3 Crude provider
 - 4 Script ending
 - 5 Forum wear
 - 6 Desert dweller
 - 7 Lanky
 - 8 Entices
 - 9 Speaks hesitatingly
 - 10 Nimbus
 - 11 — Iacso
 - 12 Laborer
 - 13 Scandinavian
 - 14 Dolphin site
 - 15 Camp
 - 16 Maple genus
 - 17 US
 - 18 Sarginal
 - 19 Wool knot

Diagramless 19 X 19, By Harvey Clyke

- ACROSS
- 1 Beach material
 - 2 Buttonwood or mahogany
 - 3 Musical refrain
 - 4 Kind of energy
 - 14 Apply as ornament
 - 15 Singer Manilow
 - 16 Gold: Sp.
 - 17 "Big Apple" magazine
 - 22 Mill, branch
- DOWN
- 1 Like clear nights
 - 2 Pretentious
 - 3 Recent prof.
 - 4 Schilite
 - 6 Earth movement
 - 7 Wild goose chase
 - 8 Actor Vigoda
 - 9 Depressed
 - 10 Indelible amount

19 X 19, By Harvey Clyke

- ACROSS
- 1 Like clear nights
 - 2 Pretentious
 - 3 Recent prof.
 - 4 Schilite
 - 6 Earth movement
 - 7 Wild goose chase
 - 8 Actor Vigoda
 - 9 Depressed
 - 10 Indelible amount
- DOWN
- 1 Like clear nights
 - 2 Pretentious
 - 3 Recent prof.
 - 4 Schilite
 - 6 Earth movement
 - 7 Wild goose chase
 - 8 Actor Vigoda
 - 9 Depressed
 - 10 Indelible amount

B.C.



'War and Peace' tests Seattle Opera

By Tim Kline
The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — The producers of "War and Peace," an opera based on Tolstoy's epic novel of five families during the Russian victory over Napoleon in 1812, have added the harmony of glass-nost.

Even the final scene was redesigned for the 2.1-million-dollar production of Sergei Prokofiev's 1942 opera, the highlight of a series of Soviet-American performing arts ventures in Seattle in conjunction with the goodwill games this summer.

Stage director Francesca Zambello said initial plans called for the victorious Gen. Kutuzov to arrive in a tank as soldiers and peasants wave red flags, reflecting the Soviet triumph over the Nazis more than a century later.

"When the Berlin Wall came down, that's when we decided, 'we're going to have to change this,'" she said. Instead, Kutuzov walks on stage "as more of a partisan, a sort of man of the people," and red army trappings have been dropped in favour of "a broad stroke about people being freed from oppression," she said.

With nearly three dozen singers in 69 roles, an 80-member chorus, more than 100 supernumeraries and 80 orchestra players, "War and Peace" is the biggest project yet for the Seattle Opera, which gained international prominence with annual performances of Richard Wagner's Ring Cycle.

"It's amazingly cast," said soprano Sheri Greenwald,

who sings Natasha. "It's like Francesca was saying yesterday, 'the people are who they are cast'."

Singing opposite her as Prince Andrei is Vladimir Chernov, a Kirov opera baritone who recently signed contracts to perform and record next spring with the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

"Seattle has gathered together fantastic musicians and singers," Chernov said. "One more time it demonstrates that music has no nationality."

To demonstrate further, Chernov sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and John Patrick, Napoleon in the opera, sang the Soviet national anthem for about 65,000 people before a fourth of July fireworks show.

Other principals include tenor Nikolai Ohtnikov and basses Alexander Morozov and Miroslav Romanchuk, all Soviets, and U.S. sopranos Victoria Vergara and Sheila Nadler. Mezzo soprano Stella Zambalis and tenors Peter Kazars and James Hoback.

Bolshoi Opera conductor Mark Ermler directed the Seattle Symphony Orchestra for performances July 22, 25, 29 and 31 and Aug. 2 and 4, plus taping sessions for high-definition television.

John Conklin designed the sets, Bruno Scwengel of Austria did the costumes and Vasile Sulich of the Soviet Union is the choreographer. Lydia Venichenko Barrett, owner of a Russian restaurant, says "War and Peace" has required the most work she has done for the opera in 22 years as a volunteer translator, ranging from

contract negotiations to shopping trips to interviews with Chernov and Ermler. She was their translator for this article.

Ermler, who directed the Bolshoi Opera in "War and Peace" at the Met in 1975 and in a recording for the Soviet Label Melodiya in 1982, said he was impressed with the cast.

"They're very interesting people. They're very well-prepared. Of course, there is some difficulty with the Russian (language), but it will probably not be noticeable to the American audience," he said.

Greenwald, a native of Monticello, Iowa, had no experience with Russian.

Before studying the libretto, she learned the Cyrillic alphabet. She also read most of Tolstoy's novel.

"I must confess, I skipped a few battle scenes," she said.

Chernov said he enjoyed the acoustics of the 3,000-seat opera house, built for the world's fair in 1962. At the Kirov, rebuilt after World War II, he said, "we have to sing very loudly, and we don't even look good when we have to scream to the people."

Zambello said artists from both countries had learned a lot from working together.

"Whenever we do a scene, we discuss everything first," she said. "The Russians, they're not used to that kind of practice. They're used to being told exactly what to do."

After asking for instruction in the early stages, they soon participated freely in the give-and-take, she said. "I have watched them open like flowers. They're blooming, really.

It's very exciting."

Ohtnikov, singing Kutuzov, is the only cast member with previous experience in "War and Peace." He was surprised when she suggested he portray the czarist general as "a Martin Luther King kind of character," but he quickly got on the bandwagon, Zambello said.

Speight Jenkins, general director of the Seattle Opera, said the interpretive style also was different for the Soviets.

"We're treating 'War and Peace' in period but certainly with a large degree of stylization," he said. "The Russians, of course, are 100 per cent realistic, and we're not realistic at all."

Then there is the Russian school of singing — baritones and basses with a very dark, woody timbre. The Italian school, Zambello said, is brighter.

With many performers singing two or three parts, costume colour coding — there are 573 costumes — and other devices are used in addition to projected supertitles to help audiences keep the huge cast of characters straight, Jenkins said.

The work offers "a very virile kind of romanticism that is extremely Russian," Jenkins said.

"It demands great singers, but it is not a great vocal challenge," he said.

"Where 'War and Peace' is an enormous challenge is that it is putting a movie on stage. It is a director's opera," he explained. "It demands intense musical concentration from just everybody in the cast. It defines ensemble opera."



Promising youngsters are given a hearing at the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, held each summer in castles and stately homes, churches and barns in Schleswig-Holstein, the northernmost land of the Federal Republic

of Germany, and starring leading international conductors and soloists. The youngest performers at Emkendorf were violinist Cemon Kim, 10, left, cellist Maximilian Hofert, 11, and pianist Henning Ruhe, 11

Hymn to freedom hails the end of German national division

KIEL — When Hamburg pianist Justus Frantz launched the Schleswig-Holstein Festival in 1985 hardly anyone expected it might be here to stay. His idea of holding concerts in stately homes, old barns, cathedrals and the open air was too far out of step with established festival opinion. But Leonard Bernstein, Sergiu Celibidache and Mstislav Rostropovich are three of the stars in this year's fifth festival season.

As usual there were differences of opinion between the festival's self-willed general manager and Schleswig-Holstein Premier Björn Engholm, who was evidently not quick enough off the mark, as Professor Frantz saw it, in lending generous support to

the idea of extending the festival to neighbouring Mecklenburg in the GDR. Herr Engholm was late in appreciating that this opening to the east would be a fitting special keynote of the 1990 festival, held in a year in which borders have fallen and of which German unity is the highlight. The inaugural concert in Lübeck Cathedral, where Günter Wand and the NDR Symphony Orchestra played the Hymn to Freedom from Beethoven's third Leonore Overture, reflected the excitement caused by the promising new ties between north German Länder in east and west.

A further highlight of the concert was Wand's interpretation of Bruckner's Fourth Symphony; the 78-year-old

conductor is an exceptionally gifted Bruckner interpreter.

Another festival coup was the unusual debut of Sir Georg Solti, head of the Salzburg Festival since the death of Herbert von Karajan. He made a surprise appearance as teacher of the festival's youth orchestra, in which 20 nationalities, especially from the east, were represented. Prompted by a film about Leonard Bernstein and the festival orchestral last year, he guided the youth orchestra on a tour of orchestral music history, from Bach via Mozart to Wagner.

AT the two concerts in Hamburg and Kiel Sir Georg doubled as a pianist and an entertaining master of ceremonies, much to the pleasure

of his audiences. His successors will have difficulty in providing such high-quality pleasure, be they Sinopoli, Seiji Ozawa or, to make the main festival imports from the Soviet Union, Semyon Byshkov or Valeri Gergiev. Gergiev is in charge of the fortnight of guest performances by the Leningrad Kirov Theatre, including Eugene Onegin, Pique Dame and Maseppa to mark Tchaikovsky's 150th birth anniversary. Tchaikovsky, both his operas and his symphonic works, will be one of the main attractions at this year's Schleswig-Holstein Festival, which will end in late-August with a birthday concert for and with Leonard Bernstein in Kiel's Ostseehalle. — DPA.

West queues up to host work of neglected Hungarian artist

By David Lewis
Reuters

PECS, Hungary — Dismissed in his lifetime as a madman, Tivadar Csontry is virtually unknown outside Hungary. His vivid and sometimes vast canvases hang in no foreign gallery.

Only a few small paintings by the artist were shown in an exhibition called "A golden age — art and society in Hungary 1896-1914" held in London's Barbican Centre last year.

But now museums in Britain, the Netherlands, France, Italy, West Germany, the United States and Japan are queuing up to host a full exhibition of his work.

"Perhaps his time has come," said Gyorgy Varkonyi, deputy director of museums in Pecs, Hungary's fourth-largest city.

"These offers from abroad came independently of each other. Csontry seems to be in the air."

Most of Csontry's vivid and some times vast works are in the museum named after him in Pecs, a sleepy city still little-visited by Westerners.

At present, the huge major works — the 1906 masterpiece "Basilica" is seven metres (nearly 24 feet) across — are in no condition to be removed from their frames and prepared to be sent

abroad.

But when funds have been raised for their restoration, they will travel, perhaps in 1992 or 1993. And then, hope their minds, Csontry will get the place in art history they believe he deserves.

"I think he is a really great personality of art history," Varkonyi told Reuters. "But you can't defend that claim without displaying the paintings for proper critical appraisal."

Csontry was born in 1853 — the same year as Van Gogh, whose paintings fetch record-breaking prices today.

In 1880, aged 27, he had a vision telling him he would be greater than Raphael and he worked as a medical chemist to earn enough money to devote himself to art.

He began paintings when he was 41, an age reached by neither Van Gogh nor Raphael. Fifteen years later his short career ended when he succumbed to poverty and mental illness.

Csontry, who never doubted his own greatness, at first produced charcoal portraits reminiscent of the German master Albrecht Dürer.

He displayed an individual sense of colour in landscapes ranging from the Hungarian Puszta to the Tatra Mountains; from Yugoslavia to Greece, Sicily and the Middle East.

Late pictures such as the Solitary Cedar (1907) and Riders by the Seashore (1909) are heavy with romantic symbolism, while Mary's Well in Nazareth (1908) and Ruins of the Temple of Zeus in Athens breathe Christian and ancient myth.

"He was a unique talent and perhaps for that very reason rejected and denigrated by the more unimaginative art historians," says English writer Nicholas T. Parsons in a newly-published cultural and historical guide to Hungary.

"They were unable to subdue his genius to their own dedicated categories of definition."

Varkonyi, an art historian, says Csontry is "a synthesis of all the artistic currents of the time — secessionism, symbolism, expressionism, surrealism, post-impressionism..."

Widely dismissed in his lifetime as a madman, Csontry would have been lost to posterity if a young sculptor called Gedeo Gerloczky had not bought his work for next to nothing after the painter's death.

Csontry's importance was recognised after World War II by Hungarian art historian Lajos Fulep and by Hungary's Communist authorities in 1958 after several of his paint-

ings won a gold medal at the world exposition in Brussels.

But as the large works were too fragile to travel, and as Western tourism to Hungary scarcely existed for the next three decades, Csontry sank back into international obscurity.

The Csontry Museum was set up in 1973 and greatly enlarged in 1983 by paintings inherited from Gerloczky in lieu of death duty. Pecs was chosen as a home because no suitable space was available in Budapest.

Several works hang in the capital, but apart from a few privately owned in Canada by Gerloczky's daughter Gloria, no Csontry work is known to hang abroad.

The last Csontry to come on the market, in 1984, was bought by the Csontry Museum for 800,000 forints — only \$12,300 today but a record price within Hungary for any Hungarian painter.

Varkonyi, who says the price was ridiculously low by world standards, believes Csontry would be accorded proper recognition if some of his works were sold to the West.

Varkonyi's colleague Jozsef Sarkany agrees: "Csontry is among the greatest Hungarian painters but he is also a great painter on an international scale."

Mexico City's Metropolitan Cathedral sinking

By Laura Castaneda
The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — A torrential rain came right through the roof of the Metropolitan Cathedral during a news conference last year on preserving it and Mexico's other historical treasures.

"We had to leave the table because we were getting wet," said Efraim Castro Morales, cultural secretary of Puebla State. "It was a big scandal."

A subsequent study found the leaky roof to be a minor problem compared with others that might cause North

America's oldest cathedral to collapse in 30 years unless major repairs were made.

Sergio Zaldivar Guerra, an architect who conducted the study for the secretary of urban and ecological development, said Metropolitan Cathedral has been sinking since construction began in 1573.

The cathedral houses an impressive collection of religious paintings, sculptures and altarpieces. It has four identical domes, five altars and 14 chapels with baroque and neo-classical touches, but structurally, everything is

askew.

Outside, the buckling earth has broken the concrete of the plaza, forming waves around the cathedral. Windows and doorframes tilt to left or right. Repaired cracks scar the walls. Metal patches and clamps mark and measure newer fissures that zig-zag around the building.

Inside, thick crevices — one about 20 kilometres long — run along the marble floors and up the columns. Scaffolding blocks off areas where workers are repairing damaged domes. The ceiling is dotted with water stains.

Most of Mexico city is sinking because it is built on the swampy beds of Lake Texcoco, over the ruins of Tenochtitlan, the Aztec capital.

The spongy subsoil's instability has damaged several important buildings, including the adjacent National Palace, the Palace of the Fine Arts and the Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Zaldivar said the problems in the other structures were not as severe because the buildings were smaller and lighter than the cathedral, which weighs an estimated 130,000 tonnes.

Brazilian director finds fame abroad, controversy at home

By Ken Silverstein
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO, Brazil — On a nearly bare set, a group of actors sits mutely. One hiccup. Then another, and another, until the theatre sounds like a crowded frog pond on a summer evening.

The scene is part of "Carmen with Filter 2," a theatre piece staged by Brazil's internationally known avant-garde writer and director Gerald Thomas. Performances recently drew packed houses at the Ruth Escobar Theatre here in South America's largest city.

The audience's response to the hiccupping scene was typical of a Thomas production. Some laughed, some yawned and others simply looked perplexed.

In other productions, some people — namely mainstream critics — have been outraged.

Antonio Fernandez, of Rio's O Globo newspaper, called "Matogrosso," a 1989 opera whose theme was the destruction of the Amazon rain forest, "a repugnant nightmare." Another reviewer said after seeing the production that he was amazed Thomas was even allowed to stage his works.

It was of little importance to the 36-year-old director with the trademark round glasses.

"I never get lukewarm reactions," he said in an interview. "It's passion on both sides."

Thomas once even put a string of nasty reviews on the

programme notes for one of his productions. He said he'd be depressed if he got good reviews from the mainstream in any case.

"I must be doing the right thing to get that sort of reaction," he said. "I'm angering the right people and pleasing the right people."

Thomas' work is characterised by the pre-recorded music, minimal dialogue that often seems unconnected to the stage action, stark sets and startling lighting. He has staged works by Kafka, Shakespeare, Bizet and Wagner as well as Beckett.

"My works are not opera, theatre or dance, but they contain all those elements," he said.

Thomas, a native of Rio de Janeiro, brings a blend of European and Latin influences to his productions.

His father was a German Communist who fled Hitler's third Reich and his mother was a Welsh psychoanalyst. He spent much of his youth shuttling back and forth between Rio and London.

From 1979 to 1984, Thomas worked at the La Mama Theatre in New York, where he staged a production written by Irish playwright Samuel Beckett.

Since then he has emerged as one of the world's leading avant-garde directors. His "Dry Opera Company" performs regularly in New York, Munich, Vienna, and Brazil.

New York's Village Voice newspaper said Thomas' work "leaves us astonished and trembling with his protagon-

ists." The German magazine Der Spiegel called an earlier version of his "Carmen with Filter 2" an "Example of what theatre will be in the year 2000."

Thomas has many admirers in Brazil, and three times has been given the Moliere award, the country's highest theatre prize, as the year's top stage director. He was also recently honoured with a week-long retrospective at a major cultural centre in Rio.

His productions are at times difficult to understand. In addition to the somewhat disconnected dialogue, Thomas sprinkles his texts with puns and references to a wide variety of literary and musical works.

Several major newspapers interviewed people who attended last year's opening of "Matogrosso" and found that few understood it was about the destruction of the Amazon.

Thomas insists he is not trying to be obscure. To the contrary, he says — he simply wants to entertain.

"A music expert who listens to a Wagner opera hears what most people don't, but I can still enjoy it without his knowledge," he said. "It's the same with my work — if you understand the references, all the better, but it's pleasurable in any case."

Some critics also accuse him of arrogance. But Thomas, who ranks himself as among the most "idiosyncratic directors in the world," denied the charge.

"I know my work is good

but I don't think that's arrogance. It's self-assurance," he said. "Art is an endless struggle for perfection and I haven't even come one per cent towards it."

Thomas, who is fluent in German, English and Brazil's native Portuguese, said he's a natural target because he is the country's only major avant-garde director.

He rejects criticism that he is a "coloniser," imposing a first world vision on Brazilian theatre.

"I'm a coloniser in reverse," he said. "When I go to Europe I take a very Brazilian vision."

At the same time, Thomas admits he is not completely comfortable in Brazil. He spends most of his time in New York, where he owns an apartment.

Thomas' views about his native land's theatre, which he calls "vulgar and commercialised," also have won him enemies here.

Despite his well-publicised battles with the critics, Thomas' productions almost always sell out, largely due to his cult-like following among students, intellectuals and artists.

"I'm very proud of my success here," he said. "I had to fight my way in and it gives me a pleasant sense of revenge."

Thomas said his success is proof the audience wants to be challenged.

"I can be criticised, but my work packs them in," he said. "If I were alienating people, they wouldn't come back."

AIDS rapidly spreading in Asia and Pacific

CANBERRA (R) — AIDS is rapidly spreading in Asia and the Pacific and could become as prevalent among high risk groups such as prostitutes and drug addicts as it is in sub-Saharan Africa, a regional conference was told on Sunday.

"AIDS is no longer knocking on the door of Asia. It has now entered and is here to stay," said Michael Merson, Director of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) global programme to fight acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

But he said WHO projections that by the year 2000 one to 1.5 million people in the region would be infected with the HIV virus, which causes the disease, now appeared conservative.

"We estimate now that already half a million (cases) have occurred in Asia and the western Pacific," he told the 600 delegates at the three-day conference.

Merson said there had been a big rise in AIDS and HIV cases among high risk groups such as prostitutes and intravenous drug users, particularly in Thailand.

"It's possible that the incidence in those high risk areas

(in Asia and the Pacific) could go the way of sub-Saharan Africa," where about one in 40 adult men and women was infected with the HIV virus.

WHO estimates that Asia and the western Pacific have only about one per cent of the world's total reported cases of fully developed AIDS.

Figures released at the conference show 2,498 people with AIDS in Asia and the western Pacific — 1,927 of them in Australia where 1,000 have died since the first case in 1983.

New Zealand has 207 AIDS cases, Japan 193 and Hong Kong 37.

Reported HIV cases in the region are 15,636, Australia accounting for 12,650, largely because of its more developed system of checking and reporting cases.

WHO estimates the world total of adults with AIDS and HIV is about three to four times the number reported and is close to 700,000 for AIDS and eight million for HIV.

The conference includes delegates from China and Vietnam and islands states of the western Pacific.



AIDS could become as prevalent among high risk groups such as drug addicts

Cautious optimism about oral contraceptive for men

By Annette Tuffs
Die Welt

WHAT is easier to prevent: an ovum maturing once a month or millions of sperm cells being created every day? At first glance the male contraceptive pill would appear to be the much tougher proposition.

Yet experts at the third International Contraception Symposium in Heidelberg sounded a note of cautious optimism. They felt some of the many scientific approaches might lead to safe oral contraception — the Pill — for men.

They were less confident that anything might come of the possibility. There is no lobby to back the idea of oral contraception for the male.

Research facilities are rare, doctors, research scientists and pharmaceutical manufacturers show little or no interest.

The idea is backed almost exclusively by the World Health Organisation in Geneva, which notes that contraception is mainly a problem with which the developing

countries will have to deal. The Third World seems likely to account for roughly 95 per cent of global population growth in the decades ahead and, as the latest U.N. demographic report put it, stemming this tide must surely be in the interest of countries everywhere.

The WHO's contraception programme has an annual budget of \$20m, a representative of the organisation told the Heidelberg symposium, and about \$1.7m is invested in research projects to develop a male contraceptive pill.

The WHO feels that in some societies where joint family planning is considered important, such as in China, an oral contraceptive for the male might gain acceptance.

The quest for a suitable product has been backed since 1972, and a number of promising approaches have failed to live up to their initial promise.

The WHO has written off a cotton-seed extract that was hailed as a Chinese miracle drug. It does indeed guarantee sterility by ensuring that sperm cells do not mature, but the process is not always re-

versible and toxic side-effects can occur.

Greater store is set by hormone treatment corresponding to the composition of the female contraceptive pill. The idea is based on findings that anabolic steroids, which contain the sex hormone testosterone, make athletes sterile.

They interrupt a complicated process. The diencephalon, or middle brain, is instructed to stop producing FSH (follicle-stimulating) and LH (luteinising) hormones.

When these hormones are no longer secreted the body's output of testosterone is brought to a halt in the testicles and spermatozoa can no longer mature.

The testosterone that is administered in the steroid treatment ensures that libido, potency and muscle mass are unimpaired.

Professor Eberhard Nieschlag of Münster University department of reproductive medicine said two thirds of 140 men who were given a weekly hormone jab were found to lack sperm cells in their semen emission.

The number of sperm cells in the emission of the remain-

ing third was found to have declined markedly, but not to an extent that might be equated with sterility.

Treatment was occasionally found to have side-effects such as weight gain and breast development.

Vasocclusion might prove a satisfactory alternative technique. The term denotes a temporary blockade of the spermatic duct along which spermatozoa are transported from the testicles to the urinary passage.

Its permanent counterpart, vasectomy, is the technique customarily used to ensure male sterility. It is not irreversible but it cannot always be reversed.

Two alternatives were outlined in Heidelberg. The WHO is currently backing a survey of the efficacy of a plastic plug inserted into the spermatic duct.

An American expert described to the symposium a technique using a twin plug that is inserted into the spermatic duct.

Both methods appear to ensure sterility without serious side-effects, and both would seem to be entirely reversible.

Warning: Night aircraft noise is a health threat

A total ban on night flights is the only way to prevent many people falling ill, says a doctor who specialises in the field of noise and stress. Rudi Kanamüller reports for the Süddeutsche Zeitung.

A good night's sleep is wishful thinking for the 40 men and women who spend the night by rota at a Berlin sleep laboratory. In a scientific experiment they voluntarily subject themselves for several weeks to what, at times, is an infernal noise.

The noise they hear is made by neither people nor traffic. They are played tape recordings of jet engines roaring, whining or booming at various noise levels.

The aim of the experimental is to make a scientific probe of the influence of aircraft noise on people as they sleep, and the 40 Berlin volunteers are doing pioneering work.

Never before have scientific experiments been carried out in a German sleep laboratory to find out whether and, above all, how aircraft noise affects the human body and people's health.

Regardless of tests and results the spokesman for Physicians for Preventive Environmental Protection, Munich paediatrician Karl-Hermann Bartels, and colleagues in the Freising and Erding areas are convinced that aircraft noise at night makes people ill.

He is not alone in holding this view. In personal letters

to leading politicians in the Federal Republic the doctors have offered their specialised medical knowledge as an "aid to decision-making."

Where else, he asks, are over 300 fellow-doctors, most of them conservative in outlook, prepared to make an offer of this kind?

When Dr. Bartels refers to imminent noise terror he has in mind first and foremost the new Munich airport under construction near Neufahrn, which is where he lives.

The new airport is scheduled to be taken into service in March 1992, and even Bavarian Administrative Court judges have referred to the "noise shock" to which residents will be subjected.

The human body, Dr. Bartels says, does not grow accustomed to noise. It can lead to cardiac and circulatory conditions and to psychosomatic upsets.

Politicians are well aware this is the case, he says, yet they are doing nothing about it. "Those who say nothing are guilty of causing bodily harm by negligence."

The only possible solution, as he sees it, is a total ban on night flights at all German airports.

Daytime aircraft noise im-

poses a heavy burden on the human body. If it is joined by aircraft noise at night the body will stand no chance whatever of recovering.

Dieter Gottlob of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, Berlin, last year told a Frankfurt Airport commission of inquiry aircraft noise was one of the main causes of noise pollution in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Herr Gottlob, a physicist, quoted opinion polls showing that public awareness of the problem has increased markedly in recent years.

In 1977 a mere 17 per cent of Germans questioned felt civilian and military aircraft noise was the most annoying source of unwelcome decibels. By 1988 the figure had steadily increased to 42 per cent.

Stress research findings, he said, indicated that this noise burden was a health factor. The degree of its effect mainly depended on peak noise levels and frequency.

Aircraft noise could disturb sleep even at low noise levels, and nothing definite was yet known about the longterm effects on continuous sleep upsets.

But the possibility that certain complaints were caused and intensified by nocturnal noise could definitely not be ruled out. From the next winter schedule the Hamburg au-

thorities plan to impose even more stringent restrictions on night flying at Hamburg Airport.

Noisy take-offs are already banned between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. From Oct. 28 this ban will apply from 10 p.m. till 7 a.m.

The Hamburg Senate says it is planning to extend this ban to landings. Bavarian judges ruled last year that between 30 and 50 flight movements per night were to be permitted at the new Munich airport between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

The Physicians for Preventive Environmental Protection have seized the initiative and printed several hundred pink posters they plan to have on show at all surgeries and pharmacies in the Freising and Erding areas.

They claim by this move to be taking Bonn Labour Minister Norbert Blum at his word. He is said to be constantly calling for more preventive medicine, and as aircraft noise at night makes people ill, a ban on night flying is preventive medicine.

The Munich State Chancellery has written to tell the concerned physicians that Bavarian Premier Max Streibl is naturally appreciative of the alarm felt by people affected that their night's rest might be in jeopardy.

But a general ban on night flights is out of the question

Antibodies make certain heart attack diagnosis possible

Millions die every year from heart attacks, and the mortality rate in the first year after cardiac infarction is approximately 50 per cent. Yet, in many cases it is not that easy to diagnose with certainty this form of cardiovascular failure and to distinguish it from, for example, forms of angina pectoris which show similar symptoms but require different therapy. Now, doctors of nuclear medicine at the University of Frankfurt have made an essential contribution in making a novel method ready for application. This method makes it possible to visually represent the infarction with great precision.

In scintiscanning, a rotating digital camera — an emissions computer tomograph — is used which records the gamma rays being produced in certain areas of the body. The sources of these rays are radioactive substances, known to be taken up, incorporated and stored specifically by the organ to be examined. In the meantime, scintiscanning has achieved such a high sensitivity level that, as a rule, doctors can work with a minimal, safe dosage of radiation.

With the discovery of the monoclonal antibodies, completely new areas of application have been opened up to scintiscanning. Antibodies are a very special class of proteins, which are formed by special cells belonging to the immune system. They serve to identify foreign proteins, protein combinations such as disease agents, and protein frag-

ments. This is done on the basis of the lock and key method: One end of their molecular chain is structured so that it fits exactly to the corresponding atom combination of the foreign body. The antibody attaches itself to this structure, called the "receptor" so that the foreign body so marked is then easily recognised and absorbed by the phagocytes of the immune defence system. Modern molecular biology is in a position to produce antibodies for almost any receptor structure, and indeed "monoclonal" antibodies, which all demonstrate the same coded structure, thus bind themselves only to molecules and molecular groups with this receptor range.

This capability is also taken advantage of in this new cardiac infarction diagnosis method. An infarction occurs when a coronary artery or one of its lateral branches no longer supplies the cardiac muscle with sufficient blood due to contraction or stoppage. This then leads to the damaging of certain cardiac muscle cells, causing "cell decline"; the cell membrane tears open, spilling the contents of the cell.

Among the proteins which normally exist only within the cells is myosin, an enzyme which is essential for the vital activity of the heart muscle: The contraction of the heart. When the cell dies, this enzyme is released, providing the opportunity to recognise it with the aid of antibodies. This is because myosin has a

typical molecular structure. In fact, doctors were successful very early on in producing corresponding antibodies — in 1979 as polyclonal antibodies, i.e. various antibodies within a mixture, and in 1984 as monoclonal antibodies, all of which "fit" only this particular structure. By attaching radioactive iodine, or more recently, radioactive indium, these antibodies can be made visible for scintiscanning. Furthermore, it is the first radioactively labelled antibody which has obtained general approval by the European Community (EC) under the designation R11D10.

These antibodies are injected intravenously into the patient for whom infarction is suspected. If the cells of the cardiac muscle have already declined and there is dead tissue, it takes 16 to 48 hours before the antibodies can bind themselves to the myosin molecules, which have already escaped from the dead cardiac cells but are still in their proximity. Using a digital large-field camera, the gamma rays being emitted by the decaying indium atoms can be measured and photographed obtained, which show in very precise fashion the location of the supposed infarction and its extent.

If one is working with an emissions computer tomograph, which makes a series of photographs of selected planes from the part of the body being examined, the infarction can even be depicted three-dimensionally. Serial examinations with patients

who had suffered infarction or certain forms of angina pectoris or who suffered from vague heart pains, have led to excellent results. Today, one may assume that antimyosin scintiscanning can, on the one hand, recognise non-infarction with almost absolute certainty and, on the other hand, is capable of determining the extent of an infarction very precisely.

Similar success has been achieved when applying this method to the recognition of rejection reactions during heart transplants. In spite of the most modern medicine for suppressing this immune reaction, more than 90 per cent of all transplant recipients suffer from at least one organ rejection reaction. Early recognition of this reaction is a matter of life and death.

Due to the fact that symptoms of such rejection are often of an uncharacteristic nature and cannot always be clearly diagnosed with the standard laboratory methods, regular biopsies routinely are carried out; tiny tissue samples are taken from the cardiac muscle using a catheter.

This very elaborate procedure, which also takes a toll on the patient, could be replaced to a great extent by antimyosin-scintiscanning. This is because rejection reactions also destroy cardiac muscle cells and thus release myosin — the experience collected up to now has clearly confirmed the suitability of this method — The German Research Service.

Explosion of knowledge about how the body's immune system works

JUST how does the body's immune system, its defences against germs and foreign bodies, distinguish between its own, healthy cells and the properties of malignant and alien cells?

How does the immune system identify substances that are not previously come across as intruders?

And how do the body's defences succeed in attacking and destroying undesirable substances while, as a general rule, sparing its own?

These are questions considered by immunology, the study of immune systems, a discipline dating back a century to when Berlin chemist Paul Ehrlich discovered substances in the blood he called antibodies.

We owe to immunology an abundance of vaccines, effective treatments for complaints of all kinds and the high survival rate of transplanted organs.

Yet immunology has only recently, with the aid of molecular biology and genetic engineering, succeeded in answering some of the fundamental questions posed by the immune system and how it works.

Research findings are now following each other in swift succession. There has been an explosion of scientific knowledge. It was partly reflected at the Seventh International Immunology Congress, held at the International Congress Centre in Berlin.

The congress, attended by over 7,000 specialists from 65 countries, included over 3,500 lectures and workshops.

Arguably the most striking feature of the immune system is that, like the brain, it is capable of learning until a late age, say about 50.

It does so in two ways, Professors Peter Krammer of the Heidelberg cancer research centre and Harald von Boehmer of the Basle immunology institute told the congress.

One way is via the thymus, a ductless gland near the root of the neck. In it, defender cells from the bone marrow, lymphocytes or white blood corpuscles, are taught to dis-

tinguish between their own and alien cell properties, so-called antigens.

The thymus itself owes this information from feedback by defender cells to their "training centre."

All cells and substances that occur in the child's body are regarded as its own; others that find their way into the body later or are otherwise produced are classified as alien and in need of being eliminated.

The thymus makes provision, in accordance with this feedback, to ensure that only defender cells designed to attack foreign bodies or substances are sent out into the blood.

Lymphocytes in the thymus that succeed, as antibodies, in developing the characteristics of an antigen designed to attack the body's own cells are destroyed and not allowed to find their way into other parts of the body.

Exceptions occur when the balance of the body's immune system is disturbed. Thymus checks evidently fail to function, with the result that defender cells attack organs and cells that are the body's own.

This process, Professor Hugh McDermitt of Stanford, California, told the congress, seems to be triggered in cases of juvenile diabetes.

The second way in which the immune system learns as it goes along is connected with the shape that immune cells take in order to fight antigens.

There are billions of antigens in us and in our surroundings. They can only be kept at bay if an antibody fits the antigen like a key fits a lock.

The composition of defender cells is, like that of all body substances, controlled by genetic material.

So immunologists assumed there must be billions of genes to counteract all the antigens they encounter in the course of a lifetime.

Suzumu Tonegawa, one of five Nobel laureates who attended the Berlin congress, discovered in the mid-1970s that defender cells were based on a mere three different genetic repertoires.

This is perhaps best under-

stood as though the end-products consisted of parts taken from three building block kits.

In this way, by combining a mere handful of genes, the immune system is able to devise a virtually unlimited number of permutations.

In respect of this kind of genetic learning the immune system enjoys a special status among biological systems, said Professor David Baltimore of Boston, Massachusetts.

Nowhere else are genes capable of rearranging themselves as required in later life.

A better understanding of the ways in which the immune system learns its lessons opens up opportunities of devising practical, medical uses, many of which were dealt with at the Berlin congress.

They related to infectious diseases, cancer, auto-aggressive ailments, allergies, rheumatic inflammation and immune complaints of all kinds, including both congenital and acquired conditions (such as AIDS).

No forecasts were made in Berlin as to when a vaccine might be developed to deal with HIV, the AIDS virus. But the congress was briefed on a project that has come up with a favourable answer on an important preliminary aspect.

It is whether and, if so, how a patient whose immune system is weakened can be helped by vaccination.

Research scientists led by Professor Bernard Moss of Bethesda, Maryland, vaccinated laboratory mice with weakened immune systems.

They were given a dose of vaccinia, a virus that used to be used for smallpox jabs. It is a virus to which cell material can be added by means of genetic engineering.

The admixtures could, for instance, be the AIDS virus or its antigens. A vaccine for treating HIV might be developed as a result.

Professor Moss and his associates first carried out experiments in which immunostimulating substances were grafted on to the vaccine virus. To their surprise the mice were soon capable of

immune responses again. In human terms this treatment might succeed in preventing any further increase in the number of HIV germs in the weakened body of an AIDS patient.

In Heidelberg Professor Stefan Meuer and his associates have sought in much the same way a means of protecting kidney patients who have to undergo regular dialysis from infection in general and hepatitis B in particular.

Kidney patients generally have weakened immune systems, so they are particularly susceptible to infectious hepatitis and the further risk of cirrhosis and cancer of the liver.

Since vaccination presupposes an intact immune system, only about 50 per cent of kidney patients can be helped in this way.

In order to protect the other 50 per cent, Professor Meuer told the congress, they were given a dose of interleukin, an immune response "messenger" substance, before being vaccinated against hepatitis.

Eight out of 10 patients then developed antibodies against hepatitis. Only one out of eight other patients who were not given this prior treatment showed signs of antibodies after vaccination.

Another technique outlined in Berlin is most ingenious in making use of the thymus's learning potential to prevent transplant rejection.

Professor Boecher and his colleagues avoided the disadvantages of the drugs currently used to suppress immune response and rejection of a transplanted organ.

Drugs block not only antibodies aimed at the transplanted organ. They also sideline defender cells against other alien substances such as germs or allergens.

As a result, transplant patients are susceptible, and exposed almost without protection — to a plethora of ailments.

Deliberate manipulation in respect of the antibodies concerned is said now to make this risk unnecessary. — The German Tribune.

Queen Alia Fund and the need to serve

By Khalid Belser
Special to the Jordan Times

Amman — Social welfare work in Jordan over the years and at various levels throughout the country has been commendable and praiseworthy because it stemmed from the prevailing national ethos of wanting to be involved and to be committed. Yet, it was fragmentary and restricted, and lacked cohesion, support and sense of direction.

In 1977, the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund, whose chairperson is HRH Princess Basma Bint Talal, was established by royal decree. Its creation was not intended as the establishment of another welfare society; it was set up expressly to analyse and find ways and means to solve the problems that beset the first welfare societies as well as to raise the quality of social welfare and the volume of services offered, particularly to meet increasing needs of the people in rural and nomadic areas. And in the words of Her Royal Highness: "We also aim setting up basic work rules and promoting coordination among organisations engaged in social work, to help avoid difficulties that could prevent them from achieving their aim of developing local societies and help them flourish. With these objectives, Her Royal Highness adds, the fund set to work as a pioneer in social development programmes carried out in the context of comprehensive national development."

As a corollary, the fund defined a number of principles that govern its activities and programmes:

The benefits of development and the right of all people, and public and private institutions are duty-bound to ensure their fair distribution in society.

Like development in general, social development should comprise a comprehensive package, particularly regarding basic social services.

Social work aims at genuine involvement of people in economic development, in order to improve their standard of living.

Increased community participation in social development is essential, since the government alone cannot meet all the needs of the people.

Preventive programmes receive priority.

In view of the above, the fund adopted the following aims:

To participate in the efforts of public and private welfare organisations, within the framework of economic and social development plans.

To help preserve Jordan's national heritage by emphasising positive values and traditions.

To promote, organise and deepen community participation in social development efforts.

To improve the standard of living of the less fortunate, either by teaching them new skills or by helping them to master their profession or craft.

To strengthen family ties by making family members more aware of their role within



"The fund set to work as a pioneer in social development programmes carried out in the context of comprehensive national development" — Princess Basma.

society and within their family, which is the nucleus of society. To make parents more aware of the importance of their role in raising healthy children and of the need to educate their children.

To provide data and information on all aspects of social work to all those concerned with social welfare, both in Jordan and in the Arab World.

To participate in implementing a well-defined population policy in conformity with the present economic and social situation and in anticipation of Jordan's future needs.

The fund, which is now in its thirteenth year of operation, has made great strides in the various realms of social service. Of particular importance was the development of the social service centre which met with great success. To the extent that voluntary social work was perceived as suffering from weak structural elements and lacking the means necessary to translate aims into reality, let alone the availability of suitable buildings in which to carry out programmes, the concept of the social service centre emerged to fill a great vacuum. Setting up such centres has made people aware of the seriousness of the project and of the importance of the activities and services provided. The centres have played an influential role in the community; they support the work of local charitable societies and serve as stations from which their activities can be launched. Twenty four centres, some of them with supporting branches, are already in operation throughout the major cities of the Kingdom and 26 more are in the process of being set up. The centres provide services to two main groups:

Children from nursery and kindergarten-age to age 14. During the first two stages, emphasis is placed on bringing out the child's talents and transmitting his energies into useful channels, as well as preparing him for the elementary education level. During the third stage, the centre helps by following up the Ministry of Education syllabus.

Women: Women's welfare, rehabilitation and vocational training programmes aim at enabling women to become part of the comprehensive development process, by enabling them to play an effective role in society.

In the light of the foregoing, it became increasingly evident that the areas of pre-school education and children's clubs will figure prominently in the fund's strategic planning and deliberation. Pre-school education is seen as essential prelude to the on-going development of the child, particularly in the early and formative stages.

Education in Jordan, notwithstanding the country's limited resources, has invariably received the attention it truly deserves. His Majesty King Hussein has repeatedly declared that the Jordanian citizen is Jordan's most valuable resource, and therefore the nation's energies to the extent possible are being directed towards reinforcing this important phenomenon.

Pre-school education is not something new in Jordan because families who could afford it avail themselves of the opportunities presented through the private sector. However, inasmuch as 50 per cent of the population of Jordan fall below the age 15, it is all too obvious that a very small number could receive the benefit of instruction at such an early age. To this end, the fund has taken it upon itself to broaden the scope of pre-school education and to help overcome the national disparity by redressing the bias tradi-

tionally in favour of the big cities. Jordan has always been a country of opportunity and challenge. And because of the challenges that have beset the country but never daunted the spirit of the nation, Jordanian from all walks of life are always eager to provide them with the essentials of a good education to prepare them to meet the uncertainties of the future and to forge ahead.

Pre-school education is not mandated by law here or anywhere in the world, yet the fund sees the need to fill in the gap in order to bring up a generation of educated and healthy children who will assume their rightful role in building a happy family and a better society.

Beyond the morals of the social service centres which provide a model as well as a yardstick, the fund presupposes the cooperation, participation and support by the local communities. The principle of *pinb pro quo* is applied whereby mutual involvement leads to mutual commitment. A classic example is one where local interests provide the building, the salaries for the teachers and defray the cost of water, electricity and the school bus. In return, the fund provides equipment and material, supervision, training courses for teachers and in some cases maintenance of the buildings. On the other hand, the parents are called upon to pay nominal fees on behalf of their children which procedure instills in them a sense of seriousness and commitment.

The work of the fund has been widely recognised and acclaimed. U.N. specialised agencies, such as UNICEF, and the Save the Children Fund, to mention only a couple, have offered support and assistance. The fund and UNICEF see eye-to-eye on major issues and work together in full and close cooperation.

The fund is duly cognisant of the need to respond to local requirements and sensitivities and to this end seeks the recruitment of workers in health, in community development, and in education at the grass-root level. For this purpose, the Zein El Sharaif compound is being established and will comprise three major institutes:

One for the training of grass-root community development workers.

Another of the training of the kindergarten teachers and educating mothers.

And the third for the training of trainers to train local people in the skills needed for their development.

While pre-school education caters for children between ages 3.8 and 5.8, children and youth clubs provide amenities as well as instruction to children between the ages of seven and fourteen in individual pursuits compatible with one's own predilections. The social service centres which now exist in the different regions of Jordan also try to encourage young boys and girls in the school age to come to the clubs established for them to complement their academic education with such skills and entertainment as many and involvement in the development of their local communities. Those clubs show promise of expansion so that eventually the schools in the local communities will become in addition to being academic institutions also institutions for the physical development of the children through the kind of education that will make them aware of the social, economic, agricultural, and health and environmental problems of their local communities.

And last but not least it is well to remind ourselves that investment in education is an investment in our future. The more even and widespread education becomes the better it is because the progress of the nation is ultimately judged, as it should be, as one entity, one whole. The fund is intent on fulfilling its mission and achieving its goals, but the scope of its activities is per force limited by the size of its resources which in any case find their origins in voluntary contributions. The nation will not be found wanting. After all, His Majesty King Hussein has aptly described the Jordanian family as one of belonging and giving.

Babies' lives could be saved with care

WASHINGTON — The lives of 10,000 babies could be saved each year and another 100,000 could be spared a lifetime of disability if the United States applies the medical skill it already has, a draft report to the president says. That would represent a 25 per cent reduction in infant deaths and disabilities, the report says. Some pregnant women don't get needed medical care for themselves and their unborn children because they can't afford it, can't get to where it is or can't fill out the forms to get the government to pay their bills, the report says.

"For some women who need assistance and qualify for it, the complexity of the Medicaid (national health insurance) qualifying process itself... constitutes a barrier to care," the report says. "Applications can be lengthy (they average 14 pages) and require more verification than a tax return."

Copies of the draft report by the White House task force on infant mortality have been leaked by those who complain that the administration of President George Bush has shelved the study. Sixty per cent of the babies who die before their first birthdays weighed less than 2.5 kilograms at birth, the report said. Another common characteristic is they come from poor families. Other contributing reasons include maternal alcohol and drug abuse, poor diet, and smoking. "By applying the knowledge it already has this country can prevent an additional 10,000 infant deaths and an estimated 100,000 disabling conditions in the newborn," the report said. Some 40,000 infants die annually in the United States and another 40,000 are handicapped by mental retardation or physical problems, the report said. Slightly fewer than 4 million babies are born in the United States every year. In 1987 the U.S. infant mortality rate was 10.1 deaths per 1,000 live births, a rate bettered by 21 other industrial countries and twice the rate in Japan and Scandinavia. For blacks the rate was 17.9 deaths and for whites it was 8.6 deaths.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL THE BRITISH CURRICULUM SCHOOL IN AMMAN Is now open for registrations for the September Term 1990

AGE RANGE:

Boys and Girls aged 3 years to 14 years. This includes a Nursery class where the children follow a carefully thought out and planned curriculum which will give them the basic skills and concepts necessary to begin formal schooling the following year.

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:

English

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH REQUIRED OTHER LANGUAGES OFFERED:

None

Arabic and French

NATIONALITIES ACCEPTED:

All

TEACHING STAFF:

All U.K. qualified and experienced within their speciality.

ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE:

Specialist teachers ensure that non-English speakers make very rapid progress.

OTHER SPECIALIST TEACHERS:

Physical Education; Music; Drama; Science; Maths; English etc. The aim is to incorporate the best traditions of the British educational system with the needs of an international community.

SPORTS:

Football; Basketball; Volleyball; Athletics; Gymnastics etc.

TRANSPORT:

Buses are available to cover principal residential areas

ENQUIRIES:

The School is presently accepting registrations for the September term. The school will also be open for registrations every Monday in July and August between the hours of 9.00 and 12.00 noon. The new term begins on Sunday 9th September.

P.O. Box 2002
Tel: 841070

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT, FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
TEL: 604676 604696
P.O. Box 7806
AMMAN

CROWN INT'L EST.

packing, shipping, forwarding, storing, clearing, door-to-door service

Agents all over the world
Tel: 664888, Fax: 698822
The 2228 BESMCO JO
P.O. Box 92847
AMMAN JORDAN

EASTERN

PACKING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES, INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING, AIR & SEA FREIGHT.

TEL: 621 775 FAX: 656 270
TLX: 23 025 POB: 815 408
AMMAN-JORDAN

المؤسسة العالمية للخدمات المتخصصة

UNIVERSAL SPECIALISED SERVICES EST.

Specialists in Packing Air & Sea freight forwarding Storage & Insurance House - hold effects insured by Jordan French Insurance Co. Valuable Commodities

Please call Tel: 810641 P.O. Box 8408 Amman.
1st Circle Jabel Amman

Saudi Real Estate

RENTAL 687821

SALES 687822 CALL SOHA

& Here Now

The Minaret REAL ESTATE

real estate "P" US

Just Call Us
Sales Dept. 833479
Rental Dept. 833478

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in 1-Hour Service Develop your colour film at our shop and get:-

- JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Gridlows Bank. Phone: 604042 Swedish tel: 823891

Admiral Home Appliances

duty Free is available

- Freezers
- Refrigerators
- Washers-Gas Ranges

Wafa Dajani & Sons Co.
Makheh Street - Tel: 824658

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabel Amman, near Alhithyah Girls School

Take-away service

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30-Midnight
Tel: 638968

Hashmi Restaurant

FIRST CLASS INDIAN RESTAURANT

Special Executive Lunches Take away service available

Open Daily 12:30-3:30 pm 7:30-11:30 pm

After the Philadelphia Hotel Towards 3rd circle
Tel: 659519 659520

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only

Tel: 818214

Come and taste our specialties

Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

PEKING RESTAURANT

AUTHENTIC CHINESE CUISINE

elegant colorful atmosphere

moderate prices
shmeisani tel: 660250 (closed on Mondays)

For the best for your MONEY... ADVERTISE in the Jordan Times

Hotel Jerusalem INTERNATIONAL

Dine & Dance Nightly to Live Entertainment Variety of Music

Res: 665121
BELLY DANCING

LOBBY LOUNGE

ASABEEL

DAILY PIANO ENTERTAINMENT

NIGHTCLUB & Restaurant

folkloric troupes, ballet dancer, luxurious dinner

Singing — Dancing and Fun

COMMODORE

MIDDLE EAST

Tel: 665186 - 667158 From 10 p.m.

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room...

DAROTEL

Amman - Tel: 668193 P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434 Telex 23888 DAROTL JO

Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

Ali Baba Restaurant

Delicious food

Lebanese Hors-D'oeuvre Fresh Fish & Lobster, Meat, Calamars, Chicken

Sayadieh & Arabian Mansaf are our speciality

Tel. 313981, P.O. Box: 1681 Aqaba - Jordan



"Pre-school education is not mandated by law here or anywhere in the world, yet the fund sees the need to fill in the gap in order to bring up a generation of educated and healthy children who will assume their rightful role in building a happy family and a better society."

Gomez, Agassi reach 3rd round at ATP Tennis Championships

CINCINNATI, Ohio (Agencies) — French Open champion Andre Gomez of Ecuador recovered from a second set lapse in time to post a 6-3, 7-6 victory over American Dan Goldie and advance to the third round of the \$1.3 million ATP Tennis Championships.

Second seed Andre Agassi, who lost the French Open final to Gomez, also advanced with a routine 6-4, 6-3 win over fellow American Richey Reneburg in Tuesday night's final match.

The fourth-ranked Agassi did not allow Reneburg to reach a single break point in the 65-minute match, while breaking Reneburg once in the first set and twice in the second.

The top eight seeds all received byes into the second round. Gomez, seeded third, admitted that he was still riding such a high from his Roland Garros triumph that at times he had trouble concentrating on tennis.

"Maybe I'm too relaxed," admitted the 30-year-old clay court specialist now ranked fifth in the world. "I feel I left a lot there (in Paris) and I need time to get back to where I was."

Gomez cruised through the first set, but his mind wandered and his tennis faltered in the second as the 83rd-ranked Goldie raced out to a 5-2 lead.

Gomez regained his concentration and pulled his game together in time to stave off a third set by winning four of the next five games to force a tiebreak.

Gomez went up 5-4 on a mini-break when Goldie hit a backhand long and the third seed served out the match.

Afterward Gomez reflected on the benefits of his status as a national hero in Ecuador since winning a Grand Slam title. "I don't even have to have a

driver's licence to drive there," beamed Gomez. "I had one, but it expired and I never renewed it."

In first round play, 10th-seed Pete Sampras overcame a stiff challenge from fellow American David Pate 7-6, 6-4, but 14th-seeded American Tim Mayotte and 16th-seed Peter Korda of Czechoslovakia suffered three-set losses.

Australian Darren Cahill took out the 23rd-ranked Mayotte 1-6, 6-4, 7-5 and South African qualifier Marcos Ondruska upset Korda 6-3, 4-6, 7-5.

Wilander trying to rekindle spark

Meanwhile Mats Wilander says he's trying to rekindle the inner desire that helped him dominate past ATP Championship tournaments.

The Swede is also trying to return to form after his four-month layoff from tennis earlier this year. He showed some of his old spark Monday night, pulling out a 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 victory over Canadian Grant Connell to advance in the ATP tournament, which continues through Sunday.

"I don't think I'm anywhere close to playing 100 per cent, but it feels good," said Wilander, a four-time ATP championship winner who was fallen to a no. 42 ATP computer ranking, his worst since early 1982. "If I can win a few matches, I can get a bit of confidence. I don't feel I'm in a slump anymore. I'm trying to get out of it."

Last year, he failed to win a tournament for the first time since 1982 and he moved out of the top 10 for the first time in his eight-year pro career.

Wilander recovered somewhat early in 1990. He reached the

semifinals of a tournament in Sydney, Australia, and then reached the semifinals of the Australian Open — which he won in 1988 — only to lose, 6-1, 6-1, 6-2, to fellow Swede Stefan Edberg.

But he had a mediocre Davis Cup performance in February and a first-round loss to Swede Jan Gunnarsson in Indian Wells, California, the first week of March. He then spent the next four months away from the tennis tour and with his father, Einar, who died in May of cancer.

Wilander spent the past week on the courts near his home in Greenwich, Connecticut, preparing for the ATP.

"I'm going to play quite a few tournaments still this year," he said. "I'm hoping my ranking would get to 20 or 30 and I can get seeded again."

He said his comeback is a struggle.

"It's hard work to come back," he said. "And you can't expect yourself to go out there and be concentrating every point. For the past five months, my attention span has been about a minute. To concentrate for two hours, forget it."

Wilander's opponent Monday was impressed, nonetheless. "We dug it out," Connell said. "He hung in there and won on experience. I'm sure he wasn't completely happy with how he played, either."

Stefan Edberg, the top seed in the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Championships, is suffering from a twisted ankle but should be able to play in his scheduled ATP match, a trainer said.

The Swede twisted his left ankle in Sunday's final of a tournament in Los Angeles and was diagnosed Monday as having a

mild ligament strain, ATP tournament trainer Bob Russo said.

Edberg, who has a first-round bye as a result of his seeding, was undergoing treatment Tuesday, Russo said.

Edberg twisted the ankle in the second set of his Los Angeles match with Michael Chang. Edberg completed the match, winning in three sets.

McEnroe to play in Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (R) — John McEnroe will return to the scene of one of the most controversial moments of his career to play in the Australian Open Tennis Championships next year.

McEnroe, who was disqualified from this year's open for swearing at tournament officials, was the first of several undecided players to confirm they would be coming, tournament organizers said Wednesday.

The three-times Wimbledon champion was dismissed during his fourth round match with Sweden's Mikael Pernfors after breaking the game's code of conduct three times.

"He's aware that when he returns to Australia... he will be asked about last year's event," tournament director Colin Stubs said. "McEnroe loves Australia and the welcome he receives here."

The Australian Open is the first Grand Slam tournament of the year and runs from Jan. 14-27.

Reigning men's champion Ivan Lendl has already confirmed he will return to defend his title, along with Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg and the man he beat in that final, Boris Becker

Burrell equals year's fastest 100 metres

SESTRIERE, Italy (R) — Leroy Burrell, benefitting from a vegetarian diet which has reduced his weight by 10 pounds (4.5 kilograms), equaled the year's fastest 100 metres time at an international athletics meeting Wednesday.

The 23-year-old American, conqueror of Olympic champion Carl Lewis at the Goodwill Games, clocked 9.96 seconds to equal his own year's best mark set in Lille, France in June.

A following wind of 1.2 metres a second and the thin air at this picturesque Italian Alpine ski resort 2,000 metres above sea level, clearly helped Burrell.

He told reporters he had joined Lewis and a number of other team mates in the Santa Monica Track Club by following a strict vegetarian diet for the past six weeks.

"My weight fell from 190 pounds (86 kilograms) to 180 pounds (81.6 kilograms)," Burrell said.

He said he felt more comfortable at his new weight although he planned to relax the diet slightly by adding milk, eggs and white meat to increase his protein intake.

The American, whose personal best of 9.94 seconds is only 0.02 of a second outside Lewis's world record, said he had felt optimistic about breaking his close friend's mark when he woke up Wednesday morning.

He said he had warmed up well and had not been adversely affected by the chill winds sweeping off the Italian Alps which made the official top temperature of 15 degrees Centigrade feel a good deal colder.

"I think I ran a little bit too tight," Burrell said. "As far as I'm concerned if a world record comes it comes."

Fellow-American Michael Johnson, the world's other outstanding sprinter this year, clocked 19.88 for the 200 metres but was clearly dissatisfied with his performance.

Only Johnson himself has run faster this year but the 22-year-old marketing student said he felt Italian Pietro Mennea's 11-year-old world record of 19.72 had been within his grasp.

Johnson, who ran a poor curve, said: "I didn't do what I was supposed to do. I would have liked to get it (the world record) today."

Jamaican Merlene Ottey, who said earlier this year she believed she could break the world women's 200 record here, clocked 21.88, 0.08 outside her own fastest time of the year and 0.55 off the record.

Ottey, the world's top woman sprinter over the past two years, appeared to lose her balance on the bend before pulling away to win comfortably.

Briton Colin Jackson gave his hopes for this month's European Championships a boost when he edged American Tony Dees to win the men's 110 metres hurdles.

Both men clocked 13.12 seconds but the Olympic silver medalist and Commonwealth champion was given the race after judges consulted a photo.

Twice Olympic champion and world record holder Roger Kingdom of the United States finished a well-beaten third after crashing into several barriers.

In the field events, American Randy Barnes won the men's shot with 22.06 metres, a distance second only to his own world record of 23.12 set this year.

Soviet woman sets cycling record

MOSCOW (AP) — Vladimir Adamashvili and Galina Yenyukhina of the Soviet Union both broke world records in men's and women's 1,000-metre match sprint cycling Monday at the Soviet cycling championships, TASS reported. Adamashvili, a 22-year-old Tbilisi University student, was timed in 10.099 over the final 200 metres, breaking the record of 10.123, set by countryman and 1988 Olympic silver medalist Nikolai Kovchev four years ago on the same track. Yenyukhina, 32, finished the final 200 metres in 11.164 seconds, breaking the mark set by countrywoman and 1988 Olympic champion Erika Salomaa by .006 seconds.

Media gets some blame for sports problems

SOUTH KINGSTOWN, Rhode Island (AP) — The media has received some of the blame for ills at European soccer games, drug use by Olympic athletes and other sports scandals.

Sports reporters bear a responsibility for discussing the events that prompt such problems before they provoke crisis, speakers at an international conference on sports ethics said. And the media have to guard against promoting nationalism that defeats the purpose of athletic competition.

"Too often, we in the media present sport as a game show," David Miller of the London Times said.

Miller was one of more than two dozen reporters, athletes and leaders of international athletic organizations from 10 nations who spoke at a four-day conference at the University of Rhode Island.

The conference, "international sport and the media: ethical issues," was organized by the university-based Institute of International Sport based, which has sponsored similar conferences for four years.

One goal was to promote an understanding of reporters' roles in shaping the ethics of athletics by involving 75 college students studying sports journalism.

Miller said the media must recognize that it plays a role in some of the scandals and catastrophes that have befallen sports in recent years.

"I think we should be pointing fingers very sharply at people who run international sport," he said.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH
© 1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ Void ♣ J1098 ♦ A4 ♠ AKQJ652
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠
?

What do you bid now?
A.—Some sophisticated agreements might reveal exactly what you want to know about partner's hand, but that is beyond ordinary mortals. We would gamble on the hope that partner has the ace or king of hearts and a running diamond suit, and jump to six clubs.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 10632 ♣ 85 ♦ A109762 ♠ 9
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—It is usually wrong not to support partner's major when you have four-card support. Here, your hand is worth some 8-9 dummy points, so it surely merits a raise to two spades.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ KJ8 ♣ 10863 ♦ A5 ♠ Q1074
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—You have a pretty good hand in support of hearts. The way to show it is to jump to three hearts. By a passed hand that is not forcing, re-

gardless of your methods. It is, however, highly invitational.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K10 ♣ 10863 ♦ 105 ♠ AKQJ74
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—You certainly want to play in game, but slam is possible if partner has the right cards. The way to find out is to start with a jump shift of three clubs. This passed-hand jump guarantees a fit for partner's suit and is forcing.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ J6 ♣ 95 ♦ K9763 ♠ AK105
As dealer, what action do you take?

A.—It would take a minor miracle to make game with this hand if partner does not have an opening bid. Rather than open and allow the opponents to enter cheaply with a major, pass and wait to see whether or not partner can act.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K9763 ♣ AK105 ♦ 95 ♠ J6
As dealer, what action do you take?

A.—This time you have the major suits, which allows you a huge tactical advantage—you can compete for a partial without increasing the level. In addition, you have an easy rebid and 2 1/2 defensive tricks. Open one spade.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY AUGUST 9, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Now you have a fine day to wrap up almost anything you have already started — particularly where matters of a practical or emotional nature are concerned. Tie up loose ends.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can obtain many new viewpoints from those you think differently from you to your advantage, particularly those whom you have recently met.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You make best utilization of today by going to a bigwig who is acquainted with up to date methods of doing business and getting benefit of that expertise.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Discuss and arrange with a quick acting associate the amusements you would like to enjoy together and get them organized right away.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think about how you can get more done on your occupation for there are gadgets and ways by which you can keep off, time, energy and expense.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) If it is necessary that you do some running around to get plans rightly made for the things you most wish to do, don't hesitate but do so right.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You will find you make real headway with those who dwell

beneath your own roof saw by coming to a better understanding with them about money or property interest.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) More directness in letting usual companions know of how much you like them and doing something positive to show that affection will bring big results to them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) See what you can do to improve the value of your property or enhance its appearance so it is more in tune with jet age efficiencies, operative skills.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your own ability to get your points across to others today is strong and there is considerable ingenuity in what you say or do so express yourself.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have some very good ideas now what you can do to add to the good things in life that are yours and get into the stream of current thinking.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A number of friends and acquaintances are interested in more contact and constructive activity with you so be sure to listen carefully to their views.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Private consultations and conversations with those who can help you in the world are important for you can come much closer to your ambitions.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I've lost my patience. I can find it if you take my husband for a few hours."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Tate

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Better send him home

HOW THE NURSE KNEW THE KID HAD MEASLES.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

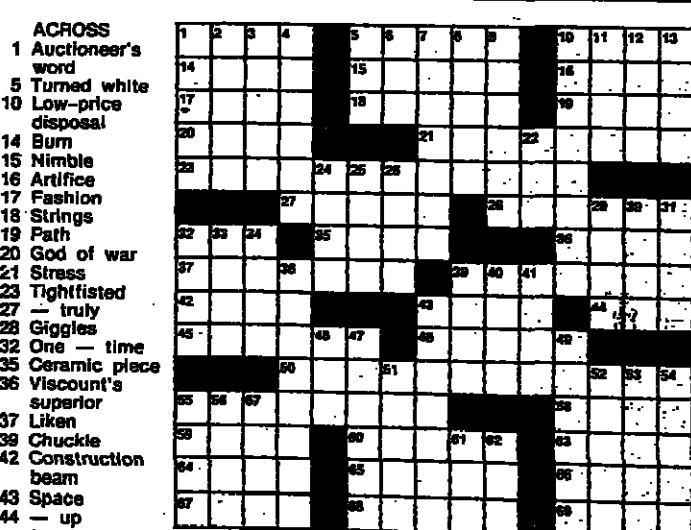
Answer: RINDE COASH NORSEP SYTTUR

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's Jumbles: SAVOR MOSSY LIMPID GOBLET

Answer: If you're doing a job of gardening, you should know that this is good for soil—SOAP

THE Daily Crossword by Fran Rogus



© 1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved

DOWN

1 Dismantle 34 To (unanimously)

2 Scarlett 38 Objects

3 Bear type 39 Bids

4 Stylish 40 "Peter Pan"

5 Cohort 41 captain

6 — Khan 42 Alt. pref.

7 Permit 43 Certain mill

8 Reelin 44 Advocate

9 Tyrant 45 To that extent

10 Untidy bath 46 Ms Burslyn

47 Kind of note 48 Motor 49 Kind of note 50 AR alone

51 Brack. port 52 Advocate 53 — pro. sign 54 — minor

55 — minor 56 — minor 57 — minor 58 — minor

59 — minor 60 — minor 61 — minor 62 — minor

U.S. BASEBALL LEAGUE STANDINGS

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	59	49	.546	—
Toronto	58	52	.527	2
Baltimore	53	55	.491	6
Detroit	52	59	.468	8½
Cleveland	50	59	.459	9½
Milwaukee	47	61	.435	12
New York	44	64	.407	15

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Oakland	69	41	.627	—
Chicago	64	42	.604	3
Texas	57	52	.523	11½
Seattle	57	53	.518	12
California	52	57	.477	16½
Kansas City	50	58	.463	18
Minnesota	51	60	.459	18½

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Pittsburgh	64	43	.598	—
New York	61	45	.575	2½
Montreal	55	54	.505	10
Philadelphia	52	55	.486	12
Chicago	52	57	.477	13
St. Louis	50	60	.455	15½

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cincinnati	63	44	.589	—
San Francisco	58	51	.532	6
Los Angeles	54	53	.505	9
San Diego	50	58	.463	13½
Houston	49	61	.445	15½
Atlanta	40	67	.374	23

Tuesday's Games

Cleveland 8, Texas 4
Toronto 11, Detroit 5
Milwaukee 5, Minnesota 3
Chicago 5, Kansas City 3
New York 3, Seattle 1

San Diego 7, Atlanta 2, 1st game
San Diego 11, Atlanta 9, 2nd game
Cincinnati 1, Los Angeles 0
Philadelphia 9, New York 0
Pittsburgh 4, Montreal 3, 12 innings
Chicago 5, St. Louis 3
Houston 4, San Francisco 0

Soviet Union plans to cushion inflation, unemployment

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union, facing soaring inflation and unemployment as it introduces a market economy, will spend as much as \$5 billion (about \$164.5 billion) to cushion the impact, a senior official has said.

"Altogether, with pensioners included, about 80 million people will receive aid from the state in connection with the moves to a market economy to give them some cushion of landing on their feet," Vladimir Shcherbakov said.

It was not clear what period the aid would cover, but the Soviet government plans to move the economy onto a market footing within five years.

The total cost of new social programmes included 6.0 billion roubles (\$10.39 billion) to help the unemployed, said Shcherbakov, chairman of the State Committee for Labour and Social Issues.

"The level of unemployment will depend on the tactics chosen for transition to a market economy. There are several approaches, all connected to prices," he added.

Soviet unemployment reached eight million in the first half of this year, according to the latest official figures.

Shcherbakov said there could be 35 million laid off if the government adopted a "shock therapy" approach, freeing prices and closing inefficient business abruptly.

"If we close down enterprises gradually... perhaps we will be able to survive," he said.

About half Soviet enterprises make little or no profit and would not survive in a market economy, he said.

On inflation, he said some

alternatives to the government's price reform plans could put inflation out of control.

Proposals by Russian republican leader Boris Yeltsin for devaluing prices within 300 days could lead to inflation of 100 or 300 per cent in the initial two years, he added.

Official figures show non-food inflation was five per cent in the first half of this year.

Shcherbakov said the new government measures decided last week would come into effect on Jan. 1, 1991.

The average pension will rise between 40 and 50 per cent, while allowances will also go up for children and for families whose main breadwinner is doing military service.

"We think the next stage should be to draw up an official poverty line and minimum living standard and this minimum should be covered by the minimum wage," he said.

The current minimum wage in the country is 70 roubles (\$121.2) a month.

E. German economic situation deteriorates

WEST BERLIN (AP) — East Germany's economy is in chaos and faces an extremely difficult six months ahead, according to the West German overseeing the troubled nation's businesses.

Reiner Gohlke's remarks, published Tuesday in an East German newspaper, are some of the most ominous to date about the country's rapidly deteriorating economic situation.

They coincided with the release of the latest official unemployment figures showing the number of East Germans without jobs soared to 272,017 last month, up from 142,096 in June.

In addition, more than 656,000 of the nation's 8.8 million workers were working short shifts because of the lack of demand for East German products.

Gohlke, former chief of West Germany's huge railroad system, recently became the chief of the board overseeing East German economic reform attempts.

That makes him one of the most influential men in East Germany today, as the country

makes a headlong rush from a state-run economy to a capitalist system.

Since the Deutschmark became the East German currency July 1, the country's 8,000 major businesses have faced increasing difficulties staying afloat.

"The next six months will be the hardest," the newspaper Neue Zeit quoted Gohlke as saying. "We will have to go through a very deep swamp."

There have been predictions that up to four million East Germans could be out of work by early next year as businesses fail. That, in turn, has led to predictions of a deep worker unrest this fall in the former communist nation.

"The situation is worse than I had thought," Neue Zeit quoted Gohlke as saying. "We have chaos. Nothing is running normally."

The Neue Zeit newspaper is closely linked to the Christian Democrats of Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere.

Working from behind the scenes

U.S. seeks to ensure ample world oil supply

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is working behind the scenes to ensure that the world has enough oil to offset supply disruptions stemming from the Gulf crisis, U.S. officials have said.

Washington has mapped out with its Western allies, Japan and oil-producing nations various ways of making up for any supply shortfall after Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, they said.

"We're seeking to coordinate our response," said a senior administration official, who declined to be identified.

The decision by the United States and other big oil-consuming nations to boycott purchases of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil has effectively taken some four million barrels of oil per day off the market.

But U.S. officials said they were confident increased supplies from other oil producing coun-

tries and cautious purchasing policies by oil consumers can help limit economic fall-out from the boycott.

An informed Western source said Saudi Arabia has told the United States it will join in efforts to block Iraqi oil and increase its own output to ease shortages in the West.

"The Saudis have said they are going to be helpful on oil, both with regard to the pipeline and output," said the source, who spoke on condition he not be identified.

Oil analysts estimate that Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, could boost output by 1½ to two million barrels per day.

Venezuela has also indicated it could raise output to make up for a shortfall resulting from the United Nations' embargo on Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil, a senior U.S. official said.

The official, travelling with

U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle in Bogota, said Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez had indicated that production could be raised by up to 500,000 b/d.

U.S. officials said they are also trying to make sure that other oil-consuming nations don't panic and start sharply boosting oil inventories, as has occurred in past oil crises.

"We all have to be mindful of the policy muddles of the 1970s," one official said. "Panic buying because of fears of oil shortages only turns out to be self-fulfilling."

Senior officials of major Western nations will meet Thursday at the Paris headquarters of the International Energy Agency (IEA), the West's energy "watch-dog," to discuss the situation.

U.S. officials also said Washington is ready to tap its strategic petroleum reserve (SPR).

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. grants Yemen \$14.7 million

SANAA (R) — The United States will give newly unified Yemen \$14.7 million for a programme to encourage private enterprise, Sanaa radio has said. The money will go on a nine-year project to give technical aid to government institutions and promote free enterprise in industry, agriculture and trade, the radio quoted a U.S. embassy statement as saying. Conservative-ruled North Yemen and Marxist-ruled South Yemen united in May. The new government has said it will liberalise the economy.

Nicaragua devalues cordoba again

MANAGUA (AP) — Nicaragua devalued its currency, the cordoba, Tuesday for the 28th time since President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro took office April 25. The official rate of exchange went from 560,000 to 600,000 cordobas to the U.S. dollar, a 6.6 per cent difference. In an attack on the illegal currency trade, police swept through the city early Tuesday arresting dozens of black market dealers. But the traders flooded the legal parallel market, buying the maximum \$500 worth at the new higher exchange rate, hoping to sell them at marked-up rates illegally later. The black market price this week is about 700,000 cordobas to the dollar. The price for a gallon of gasoline rose to 1.2 million cordobas, or \$2 at the official rate. Despite frequent devaluations for the past 19 months, the price had remained at about \$1.85.

Texaco to have M.E. base in Dubai

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Multinational oil giant Texaco, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Multinational oil giant Texaco will set up its regional headquarters in the southern Gulf state of Dubai, the company has announced. "We will be actively seeking petroleum-related business opportunities in our operational area," said Michael Hurt, the Middle East president and chief executive officer for Texaco. Texaco's main targets will be the petrochemical industry, oil production and exploration, sales of bunker fuel and lubricants to international marine and aviation companies. The company is looking at a market area from Egypt to Iran, and from Syria to Yemen, according to its top official. "Eighteen months ago, we launched a joint venture with the Saudi Arabian government — Star Enterprises — which currently runs a chain of around 11,000 service stations in the southeast of the United States," Hurt noted. "That venture has been so successful that it spurred our intention to seek out more business in the Middle East," he said. Texaco Middle East is due to commence their operations later this month from offices in the World Trade Centre.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, August 8, 1990 Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	659.0	663.0	French franc	123.6	124.3
Pound Sterling	1233.5	1240.9	Japanese yen (for 100)	438.8	441.4
Deutschmark	414.3	416.6	Dutch guilder	367.7	369.9
Swiss franc	493.3	496.3	Swedish crown	112.8	113.5
			Italian lira (for 100)	56.7	57.0
			Belgian franc (for 10)	202.3	203.5

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

	1.8735/45	U.S. dollar
One Sterling	1.1495/1500	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.5905/10	Deutschmarks
	1.7925/35	Dutch guilders
	1.3380/90	Swiss francs
	32.65/70	Belgian francs
	5.3300/50	French francs
	1164/1165	Italian lire
	150.20/30	Japanese yen
	5.8250/8300	Swedish crowns
	6.1325/75	Norwegian crowns
	6.0400/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	384.15/65	U.S. dollars

Oil prices retreat in less fearful market

LONDON (R) — Oil prices retreated in Europe Wednesday in a market a little less frightened that Iraq might launch its assault.

Oil prices were also said by Western sources to be ready, if the Gulf crisis continues, to make up for any oil from Iraq and Kuwait which is blocked from world markets by United Nations sanctions.

But leading OPEC member Iran denied the group would raise output to make up any shortfall in Western supplies.

Cargoes of the world benchmark crude oil, Brent blend from the North Sea for September loading, slumped in Europe to \$25.80 a barrel from a New York close of \$28.70 and a London finish Tuesday of \$26.55.

"But if things turn nasty in the Gulf you could still see \$40 before you see \$20 again," said Steve Turner, an analyst with London brokers Smith New Court.

Prices have soared to their highest since late 1985 because of the Gulf crisis. They were around \$15 in June.

Market rumours of military strikes on Baghdad and of Iraqi attacks on Saudi Arabia caused turmoil in the Asian oil market Wednesday.

The market also focused on prospects that some of the 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will raise output above currently mandated quotas.

A Western source in Washing-

ton said Saudi Arabia, the biggest exporter, had told the United States that it would increase output to ease any shortages in the West.

High oil prices would strengthen Iraq's hand in any long confrontation with the West. Iraq could earn more from oil which it might be able to sell in defiance of sanctions but soaring prices might threaten economic recession in the West.

Consumer anger was aroused Wednesday by petrol price rises in the United States and in Europe.

"There is a fine line between responding to and capitalising on a crisis," London's Daily Mail newspaper said. "We have a right to be reassured that this week the oil giants have not crossed it."

Industry executives say the cri-

sis is a rerun of the 1979-80 oil "shock". The supply/demand arithmetic then argued that there should be no actual shortages, but prices soared to all-time highs around \$40 because of panic-buying to build up stocks after the Iranian revolution.

Refiners' stocks now are at eight-year highs following a glut of excess OPEC output but they are wary of using them yet for fear of a deeper conflict in the Middle East.

The industry says that, with the United States pressing hard for concerted action on supply worries, consumers should watch for two things — a rise in OPEC supply and precise word from Western governments on a timetable for releasing their stocks.

"Outside OPEC all producers have been producing at full

capacity," said former U.S. energy secretary James Schlesinger. OPEC would try to see that oil sold as close as possible to its target price of \$21, an official said.

But Iran's oil minister, Gholamreza Azagadeh, said OPEC's output should not rise for the time being.

Saudi output is crucial. The market had expected at least 4.6 million barrels per day (b/d) or 20 per cent of the total OPEC volume from Iraq and Kuwait. Analysts say up to 3.5 million of extra OPEC capacity may be available. Two million of those are in Saudi Arabia.

"Our fields are located on the Saudi side of the zone, so we consider our oil Saudi oil, not Kuwaiti," the official said.

But AOC is considering what to do about its relationship with Kuwait, which like Saudi Arabia owns a 10.3 per cent stake in the company, making them jointly the two largest individual shareholders, the company official

Oil output from Neutral Zone stays at normal levels

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Arabian Oil Co. (AOC) is continuing production of crude oil at normal levels at its two oil fields off the Neutral Zone shared by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, a company official said Wednesday.

It plans to produce 250,000-260,000 barrels per day (b/d) of oil from the offshore Khafji and Hout fields in August, little changed from July levels.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia each has rights to 20 per cent of the crude oil AOC produces at the two fields.

"Our fields are located on the Saudi side of the zone, so we consider our oil Saudi oil, not Kuwaiti," the official said.

But AOC is considering what to do about its relationship with Kuwait, which like Saudi Arabia owns a 10.3 per cent stake in the company, making them jointly the two largest individual shareholders, the company official

said. AOC usually buys the crude owned by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and exports it with its own oil to Japan and other destinations including South Korea, the Philippines and India. Exports to Japan account for some 70 per cent of total output.

AOC's two fields have a combined production capacity of 400,000 b/d and their output reached a 330,000 b/d peak after the second oil crisis in 1979 to supply extra volume to Japan.

A Japanese foreign ministry official said the government was considering whether it should take measures regarding AOC's oil production.

Japan, following similar moves by the United States and the European Community, announced an embargo on oil imports from Iraq and Kuwait earlier this week after Iraq moved into Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

ROOF FOR RENT

Shmeisani bridge area, behind Chamber of Commerce Building, 200 sq.m., two bedrooms + lounges, furnished, large terrace with excellent view of Amman.

Please call Tel. 661293 or 685967. Fax: 679304

FOR RENT

Fully furnished 2-bedroom apartment in Jabal Amman

Tel. 603660/611688

4 RENT
Many villas and apartments for rent & sale furnished or unfurnished in Abdoun, Um Uthaina, Sweifiyah and many other locations.
For more details please call
ABDOUN REAL ESTATE
Tel: 810609, 810605
Fax: 810520

FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

Ground floor in Sweifiyah for rent. Separate entrance, 2 bedrooms, living room, fire-place, small garden.

Please tel. 819268

7 Days..! Pay Only 6 Days
Welcome to the Arab hospitality



Hire-A-Car - for 7 days. And pay for 6 days.

Free mileage.
Collision damage waiver
Personal accident.
All local taxes are included.

- Latest models of different cars.
- 4x4 cars, mini buses
- Double cabine pick-up trucks with A/C

At your service:
Amman: Tel. 669900 - 827082
Q.A. Airport: Tel. 08 51345/6

FOR RENT IN SHEMISANI
Fully furnished premises of 274 sq.m. for rent. All accessories included. Preferential price for small family. Those desiring quietness, tidiness and clean surrounding are invited. Ample supply of water.
For information contact Sami at 665804 or 667353 all day.

BABY-SITTER & HOUSEKEEPER WANTED
Arab-speaking, experienced and mature female babysitter and housekeeper is wanted to live-in with a Jordanian family. Minimum 35 years old, kind to children, and ready to travel and relocate with the family. Previous work certificates and recommendation letters are required.
Please call for interview Tel. 674688, morning from 9:00 - 11:00 and afternoons 5:00 - 7:00.

Catch 2 Birds With 1 STONE
Beauty and good investment
Luck, protection and prosperity
Your Birth Stones available
Loose or in 18 KT gold at:
WORLD RESOURCES
Amra Hotel Shops
6th Circle, Amman

THE ORTHODOX EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY - AMMAN

COME SHARE WITH US THE JOY

YOUTH COMMITTEE

First Summer Festival

To support the Needy Student Fund

At the National Orthodox School - Shemisani, on Saturday 11 Aug. 1990, from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.
We have a charity lottery at the end of the festival to mark the occasion.

The festival offers you:

- Fun games for visitors of all ages
- A variety of dishes and food
- Refreshments
- Sweets
- Artistic, cultural and handicraft work
- Horse riding
- A cafe for all including hubble bubble and trick trik trak games.

Valuable gifts for all participants.

RAINBOW Tel: 625155
FRANTIC
Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

CONCORD Tel: 677420
Dured Lahham
Madeline Tabar
In **KAFROUN**
3:30, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45
ONCE BITTEN
5:15 only

PHILADELPHIA Tel: 634144
Sharihan
Kamal Al Shinnawi
Salah Qabil
In **THE SCORPIO**
(Arabic)
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

NIJOUN Tel: 675571
Adel Imam, Yusra
In **The Devil's Island**
Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:45 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

PLAZA Tel: 699238
The Most Beautiful Women In Universe
Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 10:45 p.m.

Militants ignore Gorbachev order to disarm and disband

MOSCOW (AP) — Militants are ignoring President Mikhail Gorbachev's order to disarm and disband by Thursday, turning in only a handful of their estimated thousands of weapons, Pravda reported Wednesday.

"The appeal to humanness and reason, inherent in the demand to hand over arms and stop bloodshed, did not find support among those who heighten criminal tensions in the country," the Communist Party newspaper said.

"Only tens of firearms have been handed in" following Gorbachev's July 25 decree, Pravda said. On Thursday, military forces will be empowered to confiscate any illegal weapons they can find.

Pravda said "criminals" in Armenia have stolen 6,700 firearms so far this year, including 1,200 submachine guns. The Soviet Interior Ministry reported that "extremists" in Armenia continue to seize arms in defiance of the decree.

The Armenian parliament has already rejected Gorbachev's order as interference in the republic's internal affairs, and has begun debating an independence declaration.

Armenia's newly elected president, Levon Ter-Petrosyan, arrived in Moscow for two days of talks with Soviet and Russian Federation leaders on the weapons decree and other issues, TASS reported.

Pravda said some regions, such as Armenia's neighbouring republic of Azerbaijan, "pretend that there are no unlawful armed groups and weapons on their territories at all."

However, one small group of militants from the Azerbaijan Popular Front in the Jalalabad district alone has 40 handguns, six submachine guns and more than 600 other firearms, Pravda said.

"The amount of weapons unlawfully kept in the republic is quite large and at any moment they can begin to fire," the newspaper said.

"The presidential decree is also being ignored in other regions where the local authorities' inactivity and helplessness only multiply lawlessness," it said.

The decree was Gorbachev's latest attempt to control ethnic unrest in the southern Caucasus and Central Asian republics where more than 400 people have been killed in the past two years.

"The potential of the decree is in prudence and responsibility of state figures and people in those republics where armed people now boss the show," Pravda said.

"It is time they, without excess emotions, separate the husk from the grain, the interests of various kinds of political adventurers who resort to the aid of armed militants, from the interests of the state and its citizens."

Armenia's new president appealed in a speech Tuesday for the republic's restive and armed citizens to act with cool heads during parliament's independence debate.

Ter-Petrosyan, a leader of the Armenian National Movement, said in his address that Armenia could handle its own problems — a rejoinder to Kremlin threats to send in troops to enforce order if Gorbachev's decree is ignored.

TASS said Gorbachev telephoned Ter-Petrosyan Tuesday to congratulate him on his election victory Saturday and to suggest a meeting of the two.

Ter-Petrosyan spent six months in jail last year for organising mass demonstrations against Azerbaijani control of the disputed territory of Nagorno-

Karabakh. More than 200 people have died in ethnic clashes between Armenians and Azerbaijanis over control of the territory, which Azerbaijan has held since 1923.

If Armenia adopts the resolution on independence, it would become the fifth of the 15 Soviet republics to move toward complete separation from the Soviet Union. Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Georgia have already taken steps, and other republics have voted to make their laws take precedence over national laws.

The Estonian parliament Tuesday adopted a resolution saying that Soviet law incorporating the republic into the USSR in 1940 is not binding, TASS reported. The resolution says neither the Soviet constitution nor subsequent laws can serve as the basis for future relations.

Meanwhile, the Interfax News Agency reported that Lithuania's parliament approved the basic points and goals of negotiations with the Soviet Union on independence. The action was taken at a closed session of parliament, and no further details were released.

Rebels reportedly kill 57 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil rebels hacked and shot to death 54 Sinhalese in two attacks in eastern Sri Lanka, police and witnesses said Wednesday.

Twenty-seven people — including nine women and three children — were gunned down when the rebels ambushed a bus in Trincomalee district Wednesday.

On Tuesday night about 100 rebels stormed a village in Ampara district and axed and stabbed to death 27 Sinhalese. Three more people died later in hospital.

The rebels, fighting for a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority, have killed 257 civilians in a series of massacres since last Friday.

The victims have been mainly Muslims along with members of the Sinhalese majority.

A survivor from the Trincomalee attack told reporters about 15 men wearing military-style uniforms and carrying "all sorts of guns" stopped the bus at Mahadivulwewa village and ordered the passengers to get off.

"We knew we were about to be attacked and so we got off and ran into the jungle. The attackers then opened fire," said Y.P. Karunaratne, 21.

Karunaratne said he survived by climbing a tree and hiding until the army came.

Police blamed both attacks on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Political analysts said they believed the attacks against civilians were intended to provoke anti-Tamil clashes or force the government to stop fighting and negotiate.

The government says talks are possible only after the rebels surrender their weapons.

Tiger officials were not available for comment on the latest killings. On Tuesday, they denied involvement in the killing of 200 Muslims in the past five days.

One hundred and fifty Muslims were killed when Tiger gunmen burst into two eastern mosques Friday and sprayed bullets at people praying. About 100 were injured.

The Tigers said the attacks on Muslims were a "diabolical plan" by the government to get financial and military assistance from Arab countries.

Foreign Minister Harold Herat said the government had not formally asked for military aid from abroad but had sent two ministers to Iran, Iraq and Libya last week to brief them on the security situation.

"The government is confident that it can deal with the Tigers by itself," Herat said in parliament Tuesday.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told parliament the government would deal firmly with the rebels.

"They are criminals and do not deserve to live. We shall destroy them," Wijeratne said in response to pleas by Muslim leaders for protection for their community.

Diplomats said the Tigers appeared to be getting desperate and wanted to provoke anti-Tamil attacks in Colombo by the majority Sinhalese and Muslims.

"This could complicate matters in Colombo and necessitate the need to beef up security," one diplomat said.

Security sources said police and troop reinforcements were sent to the east to protect Muslim and Sinhalese villages.

They said Tamil and Muslim places of worship in most areas, including Colombo, had been given extra protection.

Two people were injured when a group of Muslims tried to storm a Tamil temple in Colombo. Police dispersed them.

Liberian rebel leader frees foreign hostages

LONDON (Agencies) — Liberian rebel leader Prince Johnson Wednesday freed all 16 foreign hostages he held in Monrovia, the British Foreign Office said.

"All foreign detainees held by Prince Johnson — including four Britons — have been released," a spokesman said.

Johnson seized the hostage group, including one American, at the weekend as U.S. Marines staged a helicopter airlift of Americans from the West African state's capital, torn by civil war.

Johnson said Saturday he would begin arresting American, British, Lebanese and Indian civilians in the hope of provoking international intervention in Liberia's seven-month civil war.

The spokesman said the Foreign Office was awaiting details from British diplomats in Monrovia about the release.

The free Britons had not yet arrived at the British embassy there.

The spokesman could give no explanation why Johnson released the captives.

But he added: "When Johnson paraded the hostages earlier he said he was only going to hold them for a short time. The release is consistent with that."

The hostages were taken from a hotel by the rebel leader, whose forces have occupied much of Monrovia in their battle to oust President Samuel Doe.

U.S. Marines landed in Monrovia Sunday to evacuate Americans. The Foreign Office spokesman indicated that they would probably be asked to take out the freed Britons.

The hostages also included two West Germans, a Dutchman and an Argentine.

About 60 British citizens stayed on in Liberia despite Foreign Office warnings that they should leave because of the fighting. "We've been telling them for months to get out," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, Nigeria's president said Wednesday that his peacekeeping troops will be deployed in the Liberian capital soon. A rebel leader has taken foreign hostages and threatened to attack U.S. Marines unless a peacekeeping force is sent.

"They will be out there very soon," Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida said upon arrival in Lagos from a meeting of West African leaders in Banjul, Gambia.

He said he hopes they will meet no resistance but will be prepared to impose a truce if necessary. Reports in Nigeria said up to 500 men might be flown into Monrovia.

Babangida, whose government is the most powerful in the region, said, "I believe the United States shares our desire to bring peace to Liberia and halt the daily carnage there, especially around Monrovia, urgently, and we are hoping that this operation will get the support of America."

Street battles raged in Monrovia, meanwhile, as rebels loyal to Johnson fought troops of President Samuel Doe, who remains holed up in his fortified mansion. Heavy fighting broke out near the U.S. embassy.

India's foreign ministry said Wednesday a ship had been diverted to Monrovia and another vessel is on standby at Marseille, France to evacuate Indian citizens from Liberia. A ministry statement said the government was attempting to charter ships from ports near Monrovia to minimise sailing time to the Liberian capital.

At least 461 Indians have taken shelter from the fighting in the Indian Community School in Monrovia, it said. The government has asked the United States to provide food and other essentials to the trapped Indians, it said.

Brando's son pleads not guilty to murder

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actor Marlon Brando's son has pleaded not guilty to murdering his pregnant half-sister's boyfriend during an argument at the Academy Award winner's Hollywood mansion. Christian Brando, a 32-year-old welder remains in the Los Angeles County Jail despite \$10 million bail put up by his father, because his passport cannot be found for surrender to the court. Judge David Perez granted Brando's lawyer, Robert Shapiro, a new bail hearing, to be held Thursday, and Shapiro said later he would ask for bail conditions to be altered. "The subject of the missing passport will be brought up at that time," he said. The younger Brando is charged with the murder of Dag Drollet, Cheyenne Brando's Tahitian boyfriend. He has admitted shooting Drollet, but said it was an accident. The formal arraignment Tuesday, which lasted just five minutes, was the younger Brando's seventh court appearance in connection with the shooting, and the first at which his father was not present.

Lack of smoke brings fire to Russian city

MOSCOW (R) — There was fire without smoke in Minsk as angry smokers brought the centre of the Soviet city to a standstill with a spontaneous demonstration after shops ran out of cigarettes. Smokeless citizens, fuelled by long hours queuing for groceries and consumer goods, marched to the Interior Ministry when kiosks handed out their last cigarettes. TASS news agency said a small detachment of riot police appeared on the fringes of the meeting and an unidentified official with a megaphone tried to quell the "tobacco mutiny."

"The tobacco factory started working yesterday. Six lorries with cigarettes have just arrived in Minsk," he shouted. The cigarettes duly appeared and order was maintained. Cigarette shortages have become a serious problem. In the Urals city Gorky last week, workers won emergency supplies when they threatened a three-hour strike and in nearby Perm, smokers protested when the tobacco factory stopped work.

Hong Kong smashes forged passport syndicate

HONG KONG (AP) — Authorities said Tuesday they have smashed a key international forged passport syndicate with the arrests of nine people in Hong Kong and six in Canada. Principal immigration officer Tang Chiu-Shing said the nine arrested in Hong Kong, seven men and two women, have not been charged. He said eight of them were Hong Kong Chinese, and the ninth was a Canadian passport holder of Chinese descent. An investigation was continuing, and charges were expected "within weeks," Tang said. One man was still being detained for investigation while the others had been released on cash bails ranging from 1,000 to 5,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$128 to \$641), Tang said. The six arrested in Canada included two Canadian passport holders, one U.S. passport holder and two Singaporean passport holders. Tang believed the group has been in operation for three years and had successfully smuggled about 4,000 Chinese nationals into either Canada or the United States. Some 1,000 of them went via this British Colony, mainly as "bogus refugees," Tang said. Recruiting agents apparently worked for the group in China, and a fake passport cost 130,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$16,666), he said.

Over 30,000 from South apply to visit N. Korea

SEOUL (R) — Members of a radical student group are the latest in a long list of South Koreans queuing for the chance to step on North Korean soil when the border opens briefly next week.

The Sochoangyon group said it would send 2,000 members to the North, joining more than 30,000 South Koreans who have applied to cross the border.

Among them are many old people separated from their families since the end of the Korean War in 1953.

North and South Korea have agreed to allow visits across what is usually one of the world's most tense frontiers around Independence Day on Aug. 15.

The South says the border will be open from Aug. 13 to 17.

A government spokesman said that by Tuesday 36,000 South Koreans had applied for government permission to go to the border town Panmunjom. Wednesday was the last day to apply.

Sochoangyon, which wants to join students from Pyongyang's Kim Il-Sung University in a celebration of South-North student alliances and of the "spirit of unification" has said it will apply for permission directly to the South's Unification Ministry on Aug. 9, one day after the deadline.

Faithful to ancestors

HARARE (R) — A man applied to a Zimbabwean court for a licence to smoke marijuana saying he only did so to carry out his ancestors' wishes. The official Herald newspaper said on Monday that Moses Ndlovu, 36 and convicted 10 times for drug offences, told the magistrate's court that his ancestors had said he could succeed in life only if he "stayed high" at all times. But the court in the southern city of Bulawayo rejected his request and sentenced him to three months in jail or a 50 Zimbabwean dollar (\$15) fine for contravening the dangerous drugs act.

Bhutto: Army will take over soon

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — Ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto predicted Wednesday that an army-supported caretaker government would not last and that the military would assume power.

"The caretaker government is temporary. Within a few weeks, the army will take over," Bhutto told reporters at a news conference in her hometown in Sindh province.

An army spokesman rejected

the claim.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan invoked his constitutional authority and dismissed Bhutto's government Monday, accusing it of corruption, misuse of power, judicial intimidation and failure to curb ethnic violence that has claimed more than 400 lives since May in her home province.

The president named opposition leader Mustafa Jatoi as acting prime minister, set elections for Oct. 24 and declared a

Leaders pay tribute to Kreisky

VIENNA (AP) — Europe's top Social Democratic leaders, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Alexander Dubcek, leader of the 1968 "Prague Spring" reforms, joined thousands of mourners at the state funeral for former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

The elaborate daylong ceremonies paid tribute to a man hailed at home and abroad as Austria's greatest postwar leader and an architect of its permanent neutrality.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas praised Kreisky as a "prominent statesman, as a far-sighted European, as a humanist in the service of justice ... who will go into history as one of the most important personalities of this century."

Kreisky, who died July 29 at age 79, was "one of the great political leaders who took responsibility after the second world war," said Ingvar Carlsson, the prime minister of Sweden, where Kreisky spent his exile during World War II.

The prominent guests and about 20,000 Viennese turned out under gray skies and intermittent rain to join a funeral march from one ceremony in parliament to another on the square before the chancellery, where Kreisky spent 13 years as head of government.

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, who heads the Socialist Party Kreisky led for 16 years, described his predecessor as "the greatest Austrian politician of this century," at the first of the day's ceremonies.

Vranitzky was scheduled to speak three times Tuesday. By contrast, President Kurt Waldheim, isolated at home and abroad by controversy over his World War II past, was not scheduled to speak at all. He walked the procession route alone.

A Jew forced to flee Austria from the Nazis, Kreisky returned to become the longest-serving chancellor and, with a total of 26 years, the longest-serving government member.

As chancellor from 1970 to 1983, Kreisky, with his passion for foreign policy, took advantage of Austria's position as a neutral country between East and West to carve a mediating role which gave his small nation unexpected prominence.

Rebels reportedly kill 57 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil rebels hacked and shot to death 54 Sinhalese in two attacks in eastern Sri Lanka, police and witnesses said Wednesday.

Twenty-seven people — including nine women and three children — were gunned down when the rebels ambushed a bus in Trincomalee district Wednesday.

On Tuesday night about 100 rebels stormed a village in Ampara district and axed and stabbed to death 27 Sinhalese. Three more people died later in hospital.

The rebels, fighting for a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority, have killed 257 civilians in a series of massacres since last Friday.

The victims have been mainly Muslims along with members of the Sinhalese majority.

A survivor from the Trincomalee attack told reporters about 15 men wearing military-style uniforms and carrying "all sorts of guns" stopped the bus at Mahadivulwewa village and ordered the passengers to get off.

"We knew we were about to be attacked and so we got off and ran into the jungle. The attackers then opened fire," said Y.P. Karunaratne, 21.

Karunaratne said he survived by climbing a tree and hiding until the army came.

Police blamed both attacks on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Political analysts said they believed the attacks against civilians were intended to provoke anti-Tamil clashes or force the government to stop fighting and negotiate.

The government says talks are possible only after the rebels surrender their weapons.

Tiger officials were not available for comment on the latest killings. On Tuesday, they denied involvement in the killing of 200 Muslims in the past five days.

One hundred and fifty Muslims were killed when Tiger gunmen burst into two eastern mosques Friday and sprayed bullets at people praying. About 100 were injured.

The Tigers said the attacks on Muslims were a "diabolical plan" by the government to get financial and military assistance from Arab countries.

Foreign Minister Harold Herat said the government had not formally asked for military aid from abroad but had sent two ministers to Iran, Iraq and Libya last week to brief them on the security situation.

"The government is confident that it can deal with the Tigers by itself," Herat said in parliament Tuesday.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told parliament the government would deal firmly with the rebels.

"They are criminals and do not deserve to live. We shall destroy them," Wijeratne said in response to pleas by Muslim leaders for protection for their community.

Diplomats said the Tigers appeared to be getting desperate and wanted to provoke anti-Tamil attacks in Colombo by the majority Sinhalese and Muslims.

"This could complicate matters in Colombo and necessitate the need to beef up security," one diplomat said.

Security sources said police and troop reinforcements were sent to the east to protect Muslim and Sinhalese villages.

They said Tamil and Muslim places of worship in most areas, including Colombo, had been given extra protection.

Two people were injured when a group of Muslims tried to storm a Tamil temple in Colombo. Police dispersed them.

Burmese security forces fire on Buddhist monks

BANGKOK (R) — Burmese security forces opened fire on a peaceful dawn march led by Buddhist monks in Mandalay Wednesday, killing at least four people, Western diplomats in Rangoon said.

Diplomats quoted witnesses as saying 5,000 people took part in the march, which marked the second anniversary of huge protests against the military government and reflected growing tension over the delay in a transfer to civilian rule.

One diplomat, contacted by telephone from Bangkok, said two monks and two students were shot dead and one monk and one student were injured. Another said up to seven monks may have been killed.

Troops immediately sealed off the area in central Mandalay, Burma's second city about 600 kilometres north of Rangoon. Scattered demonstrations had broken out in the city during the past three days.

No major demonstrations were reported in the capital or other cities, but diplomats said there was a heavy troop presence in Rangoon and teachers were searching bags belonging to schoolchildren at the gates of their schools.

There has been growing frustration in Burma about the delay by the military government in handing power to civilians after a general election in May in which more than 80 per cent voted for the opposition National League

for Democracy (NLD).

In Mandalay the monks, carrying bowls for rice offerings, had walked at dawn from their monastery to a central pagoda and were starting to return home when soldiers blocked their way.

"There was a confrontation. Shots were fired. This was at 7:30 a.m.," a diplomat said.

Another said the shooting began when one of the students pulled out a banner showing the fighting peacock, a traditional symbol of Burmese resistance which is used by the league.

"Someone tried to arrest the student. In the ensuing melee a police captain was hit on the head with a rock," he said.

A government official contacted in Rangoon dismissed the reports of the shooting as "merely a rumour spread by unscrupulous elements."

He said if there had been a demonstration in Mandalay a report would be broadcast on state-controlled radio and television in the evening.

In 1988 hundreds of thousands of people, including monks, students, civil servants and even some military personnel took part in an uprising against 26 years of military rule, demanding democracy.

They forced the resignation of General Ne Win, who had ruled Burma for a generation through an army-run Socialist Party that suppressed all opposition, closed the country off from the world and ruined the economy.

New president takes over in Colombia

BOGOTA (R) — Cesar Gaviria, a 43-year-old economist, was sworn in as Colombia's new president Tuesday and immediately proposed sweeping new measures to fight drug-trafficking and violence.

"Drug-backed terrorism is today the main threat to our democracy. We will stand up to it without concessions," Gaviria said after taking the presidential oath.

Some 2,500 invited guests, including four Latin American presidents, U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle and officials from 74 other countries, attended the inauguration.

"There is no other way to eradicate the assassinations, the hundreds of deaths from car bombs..." Gaviria said.

The ceremony was held under intense security to guard against possible attack from cocaine traffickers who have killed hundreds of people during a year-old war.

Gaviria, who has received death threats, took the oath behind a bullet-proof screen and armed police were posted on roofs of nearby buildings. Thousands of heavily-armed police and troops patrolled the city centre in drizzling rain.

Cannons fired a salute after Gaviria, using a walking stick after pulling a leg muscle playing tennis, took the oath before Senate Chairman Aurelio Iragorri. Gaviria, accompanied by his wife and two small children, then smilingly acknowledged the applause of the crowd.

Gaviria, Colombia's youngest president this century, said he would take a strong personal role in the anti-drug fight by directing actions of the security forces.

Japan must apologise for aggression — Nagasaki mayor

NAGASAKI, Japan (R) — The mayor of Nagasaki, which was devastated by a U.S. atomic bomb 45 years ago, said Wednesday Japan must apologise for its wartime aggression so that his city was the last to suffer for Japanese arrogance.

"Why was the bomb dropped on Nagasaki? It is because Nagasaki was the terminus of a century of Japanese aggression into Asia," Hitoshi Motoshima said.

"We must make this the last place to suffer."

On Thursday, the 45th anniversary of the Nagasaki bombing, Motoshima is to make Japan's first formal apology to the thousands of Chinese and Korean forced labourers killed in the holocaust that consumed Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945.

Last January, Motoshima, 68, barely escaped death when he was shot in the back by a right-wing extremist. He survived because the bullet hit a rib.

Motoshima, a conservative politician and a Christian, had attracted national attention for

saying what seemed obvious to other countries but remained taboo in Japan, that the late Emperor Hirohito had to bear some responsibility for Japan's World War II aggression.

Hirohito died in January, 1989. He was never tried for war crimes and never publicly admitted any war guilt.

Since the assassination attempt, Motoshima has been under 24-hour police guard. A man was arrested and is now on trial for attempted murder.

"We must remember that Aug. 15 (the day Japan surrendered) is called 'light Resurrection Day' in Korea and 'Saved by God Day' in Singapore. Understandably, they applauded when the bomb fell on Nagasaki," Motoshima said in the interview.

Asked why the average Japanese, unlike his German counterpart, knew little about and therefore did not reflect on

his country's past aggression and atrocities, the mayor said Japanese were a forgetful people. Many who sympathised with pre-war militarism still formed a core in Japan's establishment.

Japan's history textbooks, which are censored by the Ministry of Education, gloss over the past.

They triggered a diplomatic row with China and the two Koreas in the early 1980s when the books were found to state that Japan had "intruded into," rather than invaded, a string of Asian countries prior to 1945.

Ministry censors even try to dispute that the "rape or Nanking," the Chinese city now known as Nanjing where more than 100,000 Chinese civilians were massacred by Japanese troops in 1937, ever took place.

"To think about Nagasaki is to think about the 20 million people in Asia who fell at Japan's

hands," Motoshima said.

Motoshima was expelled from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party for his remarks on Hirohito's war role.

Although he now refuses to speak directly about Hirohito's war responsibility, he has not retracted those remarks. He has publicly said all Japanese, including Hirohito's successor, Emperor Akihito, must continue to offer apologies for the war.

His remarks, called "brave" by almost all Japanese media, attracted thousands of letters, for and against. Many saw the assassination attempt against Motoshima as a violation of the right to free speech.

Motoshima told Reuters he hated to be hero-worshipped. He urged Japan's mass media to make their own efforts to speak out on the emperor and the war, not rely on a mayor to act as spokesman.

China and Indonesia formally become friends

JAKARTA (R) — China and Indonesia formally became friends again Wednesday, putting an end to 23 years of discord between the two Asian giants.

"(We agreed) to let bygones be bygones and look to the future," Chinese Premier Li Peng told reporters after the two countries signed agreements to restore diplomatic relations and step up economic cooperation.

Jakarta suspended ties with Peking, previously one of its closest allies, in 1967, accusing it of backing an abortive Communist coup two years earlier. The coup was crushed, leading to the rise to power of President Suharto.

China has never admitted its involvement with the Indonesian Communist Party, once the world's largest outside China and the Soviet Union.

The party was banned after the coup and its members were hunted down and killed in a ruthless operation that left 500,000 Indonesians dead.

Seven men remain on death row for their role in the attempted putsch and several have been executed in recent years despite international complaints over the

long delays in carrying out the punishments.

In a statement this week Muslim groups demanded China apologise for its past actions.

The statement was widely seen as reflecting feelings of the powerful military in Indonesia, where suspicion of China and the economically-dominant ethnic Chinese still lingers.

Li pledged only that China would never try to exploit Indonesia's ethnic Chinese who make up three per cent of the country's 180 million people, 90 per cent of whom are Muslims.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has said there are three main benefits to renewed ties.

Jakarta is now free to play a greater role in Asia, has access to the potentially huge Chinese market and friendship between the two countries should mean a better chance of peace in the region and internationally, he said.

Indonesia for the past three years has been at the forefront of Asian efforts to end the 11-year war in Cambodia in which China plays a key role by backing the powerful Khmer Rouge guerrillas in their fight against the Phnom Penh government.

Japan must apologise for aggression — Nagasaki mayor

NAGASAKI, Japan (R) — The mayor of Nagasaki, which was devastated by a U.S. atomic bomb 45 years ago, said Wednesday Japan must apologise for its wartime aggression so that his city was the last to suffer for Japanese arrogance.

"Why was the bomb dropped on Nagasaki? It is because Nagasaki was the terminus of a century of Japanese aggression into Asia," Hitoshi Motoshima said.

"We must make this the last place to suffer."

On Thursday, the 45th anniversary of the Nagasaki bombing, Motoshima is to make Japan's first formal apology to the thousands of Chinese and Korean forced labourers killed in the holocaust that consumed Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945.

Last January, Motoshima, 68, barely escaped death when he was shot in the back by a right-wing extremist. He survived because the bullet hit a rib.

Motoshima, a conservative politician and a Christian, had attracted national attention for

saying what seemed obvious to other countries but remained taboo in Japan, that the late Emperor Hirohito had to bear some responsibility for Japan's World War II aggression.

Hirohito died in January, 1989. He was never tried for war crimes and never publicly admitted any war guilt.

Since the assassination attempt, Motoshima has been under 24-hour police guard. A man was arrested and is now on trial for attempted murder.

"We must remember that Aug. 15 (the day Japan surrendered) is called 'light Resurrection Day' in Korea and 'Saved by God Day' in Singapore. Understandably, they applauded when the bomb fell on Nagasaki," Motoshima said in the interview.

Asked why the average Japanese, unlike his German counterpart, knew little about and therefore did not reflect on

Japan must apologise for aggression — Nagasaki mayor

NAGASAKI, Japan (R) — The mayor of Nagasaki, which was devastated by a U.S. atomic bomb 45 years ago, said Wednesday Japan must apologise for its wartime aggression so that his city was the last to suffer for Japanese arrogance.

"Why was the bomb dropped on Nagasaki? It is because Nagasaki was the terminus of a century of Japanese aggression into Asia," Hitoshi Motoshima said.

"We must make this the last place to suffer."

On Thursday, the 45th anniversary of the Nagasaki bombing, Motoshima is to make Japan's first formal apology to the thousands of Chinese and Korean forced labourers killed in the holocaust that consumed Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945.

Last January, Motoshima, 68, barely escaped death when he was shot in the back by a right-wing extremist. He survived because the bullet hit a rib.

Motoshima, a conservative politician and a Christian, had attracted national attention for

Japan must apologise for aggression — Nagasaki mayor

NAGASAKI, Japan (R) — The mayor of Nagasaki, which was devastated by a U.S. atomic bomb 45 years ago, said Wednesday Japan must apologise for its wartime aggression so that his city was the last to suffer for Japanese arrogance.

"Why was the bomb dropped on Nagasaki? It is because Nagasaki was the terminus of a century of Japanese aggression into Asia," Hitoshi Motoshima said.

"We must make this the last place to suffer."

On Thursday, the 45th anniversary of the Nagasaki bombing, Motoshima is to make Japan's first formal apology to the thousands of Chinese and Korean forced labourers killed in the holocaust that consumed Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945.

Last January, Motoshima, 68, barely escaped death when he was shot in the back by a right-wing extremist. He survived because the bullet hit a rib.

Motoshima, a conservative politician and a Christian, had attracted national attention for

Japan must apologise for aggression — Nagasaki mayor

NAGASAKI, Japan (R) — The mayor of Nagasaki, which was devastated by a U.S. atomic bomb 45 years ago, said Wednesday Japan must apologise for its wartime aggression so that his city was the last to suffer for Japanese arrogance.

"Why was the bomb dropped on Nagasaki? It is because Nagasaki was the terminus of a century of Japanese aggression into Asia," Hitoshi Motoshima said.

"We must make this the last place to suffer."

On Thursday, the 45th anniversary of the Nagasaki bombing, Motoshima is to make Japan's first formal apology to the thousands of Chinese and Korean forced labourers killed in the holocaust that consumed Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945.

Last January, Motoshima, 68, barely escaped death when he was shot in the back by a right-wing extremist. He survived because the bullet hit a rib.

Motoshima, a conservative politician and a Christian, had attracted national attention for